

THE TIMES

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10P
EVERY
SUMMER
MONDAY



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AND RELIGION**
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before this book is published'*
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10P
EVERY
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MONDAY

Prince gave up on Church years ago, Runcie says

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION
CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales is disenchanted with the Church of England and "gave up" on it more than a decade ago, according to the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Runcie.

The Prince's views on the Church were inconsistent and he did not take it very seriously, Lord Runcie told his biographer Humphrey Carpenter. "It would help if he loved the Church of England a bit more."

The biography, which is being serialised in *The Times*, reveals that Lord Runcie considered the Prince to have entered an arranged marriage about which he was seriously depressed, and that he knew about the Prince's relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles long before it became public knowledge.

He tried to help the Princess when things went wrong — although he agreed that she was an actress, a schemer and very competitive. But it is the remarks about the Prince's disaffection with the Church of England that will prove most controversial. For years, church leaders have privately questioned the religious allegiance of the man who is destined to become its supreme governor, and Lord Runcie's taped interviews with Mr Carpenter reinforce what many have long suspected. He thought the Prince was more interested in a "Laurens van der Post spirituality" and said that when it came to improving the state of the country, he did not take the Church seriously.



It would quite help if he loved the Church of England a bit more. That's one of the things I found disappointing — that he was so disenchanted with it?

Questioned by Mr Carpenter on how he perceived the Prince's attachment to the Church, Lord Runcie said: "That's one of the things that I found so disappointing — that he was so disenchanted with it. But he doesn't have a consistent view."

"He would go in with the *Spectator* gang on the 'lovely language of the Prayer Book', but then he would say, 'Instead of interfering with politics, the Church should be creating centres of healing in the inner cities — ought to be bringing together the spiritual, the intellectual and the architectural' — I think he'd given up on the Church of England before I arrived."

The Archbishop's words will make bleak reading for those who support the retention of an established church — especially in the light of the Queen's decision to consider disestablishment among other reforms of the monarchy, and of the Prince's televised admission that he would prefer to be the "defender of faith" than of the Protestant faith.

Speaking for the Church last night, the Rev Eric Shegog said: "Prince Charles is a communicant member of the Church of England and worships regularly in Anglican churches." But the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said: "It has been a general feeling for some time that the Prince of Wales is more interested in New Age-type spiritualities than Christianity. His disenchantment with the Church and his interest in Laurens van der Post is not a surprise."

Mr Austin said he did not think it would damage the Prince's chances of becoming supreme governor. "It is probably many years before he will become king, by which time public opinion may well have totally changed and he will be accepted both as Supreme Governor, and as one who is married to Queen Camilla."

Lord Runcie's compelling interview on the Royal Family also dealt with the Prince's marriage. Before conducting the wedding at St Paul's Cathedral in July 1981, the

Archbishop told a press conference that he had been impressed by the seriousness with which the couple had approached the matter as loyal Christians. But the biography discloses that when they went to Lambeth Palace for the first time, the Archbishop's chaplain, Richard Chartres — now Bishop of London — said to him: "He's seriously depressed. You can tell from his voice." Lord Runcie said: "We thought it was an arranged marriage, but my own view was, 'They're a nice couple, and she'll grow into it.'"

When the marriage started to go wrong and the Princess was unhappy, the Prince invited the Archbishop to lunch and asked him to help her — "he thought she needed a bit of instruction". But Lord Runcie continued: "I quickly saw she needed some encouragement."

The Archbishop said that he was regarded as being associated with the Princess's "camp" because of his friendship with her, her brother and her mother. He also knew the Princess's grandmother, Lady Fermoy, who was "totally and wholly a Charles person". Lady Fermoy was distressed about the Princess's behaviour and regarded her as an actress and a schemer — "all of which is true, of course."

Asked about the Prince's relationship with Mrs Parker-Bowles, Lord Runcie said: "I knew about that. That was what worried Ruth Fermoy — about his needing a woman to love and be cared for by. And also that Diana would never be under control until she fell in love with someone."

Serialisation, pages 16, 17

'They just picked him off the street and killed him'



Connie Casey demonstrates how one of the attackers throttled her boyfriend

Holiday murderer was like a robot

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

THE distraught girlfriend of a British tourist beaten to death by two men near Bondi Beach in Sydney, said last night that one of his attackers behaved like a robot.

"His eyes were glazed and he was robotic," Connie Casey told a press conference here, the day after Brian Hagland, 28, died from head injuries.

"It looked like he didn't even see Brian — he just needed something to take his anger out on," Ms Casey said. "They just picked him off the street and killed him."

Ms Casey, 25, broke down several times as she recounted the last minutes of her boyfriend's life.

The London couple had been on a working holiday in Australia for six months and were returning home from a farewell party early on Saturday. Ms Casey had left her job at the Australian Trade Commission and been given a bunch of flowers by colleagues. Mr Hagland was holding the flowers in one hand and his girlfriend's hand in the other as they came face to face with their attackers.

"We'd just got off the bus and walked around the corner and these men were coming towards us," she recalled. "I just knew by the look in this man's eyes that he was dangerous and he was going to do something."

"I said to Brian: 'Don't say anything to him.' He said: 'I'm not going to do anything,' and this man just squared up to him and said: 'Come on, let's have it.'"

Ms Casey said the attacker's accomplice stood back while Mr Hagland was punched and kicked. Ms Casey, who tried in vain to protect her

Continued on page 2, col 6

Gang of teenagers beats boy to death

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A TEENAGER was beaten to death after being chased through a housing estate by about 20 youths and girls after a night of unrest involving rival gangs.

Scott Ferguson, 16, had been visiting relatives in Paisley, near Glasgow, when he was confronted by the mob and chased through several streets. He was then attacked only a few hundred yards from his home.

Strathclyde Police said between 15 and 20 youngsters, aged between 17 and 20, were involved in the beating. A spokeswoman said a gun was fired during the incident on Saturday night but nobody was injured by the shot and the weapon was later recovered by police. She said Scott

was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, where he died.

The killing came on a night of tension in the area, which is close to Ferguslie Park, the scene of several drug-related attacks.

Detective Chief Inspector Ronald Beattie, heading the murder hunt, said: "This was a particularly vicious attack on a 16-year-old boy and I would appeal to anyone with any information to contact police."

Officers carried out door-to-door inquiries yesterday as forensic experts combed the area for clues.

Anyone with information or who was in the area at the time was asked to telephone police on 0141-532 5900.

Blair heads for clash with TUC on no-strike package

By PHILIP BASSETT AND JILL SHERMAN

RADICAL plans to prevent a Labour government being derailed by a wave of public sector pay strikes are to be put forward by the Labour leadership tomorrow in a move that threatens a confrontation between Tony Blair and the unions.

Union leaders gathered in Blackpool yesterday on the eve of the TUC conference dismissed the idea of compulsory binding arbitration in pay disputes, one idea likely to be floated in a speech by David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment Secretary.

Labour leaders are planning to consult employers and unions over the coming months on ways of resolving public sector pay disputes, the

issue on which the last Labour government lost office in 1979.

Although union leaders last night cautiously welcomed the principle of action to avoid strikes, they dismissed compulsory arbitration which many see as a back door way of banning strikes.

Labour sources confirmed that the party will advance a number of proposals for consideration, including the use of compulsory binding arbitration, as well as increasing the role of the official conciliation service Acas and the possible creation of more review bodies to fix pay in line with those operating for teachers, nurses, the armed forces and others.

Speaking on Sky TV, Mr

Blunkett said it was important to try to remove trade union and industrial relations issues from the political battleground, and to modernise Labour's approach to them.

"Let's look to the future at the kind of relationship and the kind of labour markets we are dealing with, rather than the factory-gate megaphones of 20 years ago."

Mr Blair will address a private dinner of the TUC's governing general council tomorrow, and Mr Blunkett's speech will come as postal workers' leaders meet to decide on more strikes and a day ahead of the next round of strikes by conductors in some regional rail companies on

Continued on page 2, col 3

Moves to ban media cash for witnesses

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CHEQUE-BOOK journalism and the payment of huge sums by the media to witnesses in trials would be outlawed under draft proposals expected next month. A consultation paper from the Lord Chancellor's Department will recommend a change in the law making it a criminal offence to "buy up" someone who is, or is likely to be, a trial witness.

The move — which signals ministers' lack of faith in newspapers' attempts at self-regulation — comes in the wake of the Rosemary West murder trial last year.

But legislation would be strongly opposed by the newspaper industry and by the Press Complaints Commission, which favours instead a toughening of the industry's voluntary code of practice.

The draft government proposals are expected to canvass at least two options: a widening of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 to prohibit payments to witnesses in pending trials, or the making of payments to witnesses a specific criminal offence.

The industry's code of practice forbids payments to criminals or witnesses in current criminal proceedings except where material ought to be published in the public interest. During the West trial,

several witnesses admitted they had received substantial offers from newspapers. Afterwards both Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyall QC, ordered investigations into the payments.

Lord Wakcham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has already made clear, however, that he wants a new protocol to toughen and clarify the code. Guy Black, director of the Press Complaints Commission, said: "Problems over payments to witnesses do not arise very often — there were, in fact, no complaints over the West trial. In our

Continued on page 2, column 6



"Anything you say won't be taken down and sold to a paper"



**Daily guide
to the mysteries
of ancient China**
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Managers to go
Deutsche Bank, the owner of Morgan Grenfell, is to seek the resignation of five or more senior managers Page 48

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Female editor is accused of turning radio favourite into a 'badly written load of feminist tripe'

Archers veteran decries an Ambridge too far-fetched



Smethurst claims series has been hijacked by leftwingers

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FORMER editor of the world's longest-running radio series, *The Archers*, set the airwaves alight yesterday when he let fly at the woman who is now doing his old job.

William Smethurst, who edited the programme for 11 years to 1986, accused his successor, Vanessa Whitburn, of having turned the BBC's erstwhile "everyday story of country folk" into "a badly written load of feminist tripe".

Mr Smethurst claimed that *The Archers* "has been hijacked by politically correct leftwingers". He slated Ms Whitburn for introducing racist thugs, drug-dealing teenagers, a female vicar and a homosexual publican into Ambridge life. "You don't get neo-Nazi thugs throwing acid at Hindu lawyers in the countryside," he said. "These things just don't happen."

There, sadly, Mr Smethurst errs.

The BBC emphasised yesterday that this particular *Archers* storyline had been based on careful research among files supplied by the Commission for Racial Equality showing the incidence of racist attacks in various counties of England.

Mr Smethurst, though, was irreconcilable. "The *Archers* is no longer a typical story of English village life," he fumed. "I think that is dreadful. If Vanessa wants to be involved in this sort of clumsy propaganda, she should apply for a job on *Eastenders*."

Mr Smethurst, who left *The Archers* and the BBC in 1986 for a short stay at ITV's ill-fated *Crossroads* motel, added: "Not only are Vanessa and her feminist friends forever forcing left-wing issues down our throats, but the scripts are very poorly written. So when Ambridge is about to get a woman vicar, all the clever, intelligent villagers — mainly of course, the women — are in favour, while any

men who disapprove are made to look stupid. It's clumsy, left-wing propaganda and, to my mind, an awful load of tripe."

Mr Smethurst, now working as a novelist and director of a television production company, is publishing a book this week entitled *The Archers: The True Story* (Michael O'Mara; £16.99).

It is timed to appear just six days before Ms Whitburn's own book, *The Archers: The Official Inside Story* (Virgin Books; £14.99). Ms Whitburn's account is intended to mark *The Archers* 45th anniversary and to counter some of the more frequent criticisms of her custodianship of rural England's fictional heartland.

In his book Mr Smethurst reveals that he first clashed with Ms Whitburn, said to be nicknamed "She Wolf" by members of the cast, when she became an assistant producer at Pebble Mill. He once hung a string of garlic over the inter-communicating doors of their

offices to keep her away. Mr Smethurst's book says that in his day *The Archers* administration was frequently accused of being racist because there were no black or Asian characters. He claims that the programme management replied to one complainant saying: "We already have a coloured resident in Ambridge. We are delighted to find that our character is so well-integrated that you did not guess their ethnic origin. We thought we had given the game away when Colonel Danby was discovered cooking a curry."

Mr Smethurst concludes: "The programme is changing with the times, the producers will say, and indeed it is pointless to complain about radical feminism and neo-Nazis in Ambridge. If the storylines had the ability to tell a tale of the English countryside, they would be doing so. Rather blame the people who hired them."

The BBC's official spokesman for *The Archers* said: "The *Archers* is a

drama and all dramas have both critics and fans. William is entitled to his views, but I don't think the programme's four million regular listeners each week would agree with him."

The spokesman added: "Vanessa Whitburn is a much-criticised and controversial editor, but she is a very successful one. Our research and listening figures show that listeners enjoy buoyant, controversial storylines. *The Archers* has always been controversial, and has only survived so long by keeping up to date. Vanessa is really following in an *Archers* tradition, though the bulk of the storylines used in a year are still agricultural ones. They may not be the issues that make headlines, but they are always there."

Ms Whitburn was not available for comment. She is keeping her powder dry until she has her own book to publicise.



Whitburn: introduced racist thugs and drug dealers

Radio, page 46

Blair's wife joins political battle for the home front

Cherie Booth knits matching pattern of domestic harmony

By CAROL MIDGLEY

WIFELY attempts to present a homely image of life with party leaders continued yesterday with the revelation that Tony Blair is good at polishing shoes and has a nodding acquaintance with the washing machine. He also puts up with his sons doing impressions of Rory Bremner mimicking him.

A much-trailed edition of the magazine *Prima*, with Cherie Booth as guest editor, is reaching the news-stands after Norma Major grabbed the headlines with an interview revealing that she grates and freezes stale bits of cheese and uses teabags more than once.

Ms Booth, 42, a barrister, reveals herself as a keen knitter and admits that she made the decision for the magazine to include matching mother-and-daughter sweater patterns which she and her daughter, Kathryn, 8, "will wear again and again". There is also a four-page feature entitled: "Yes, we can all wear trousers". Mr Blair has clothes bought for him by his wife and mother-in-law.

Knowledge of the impending

edition of *Prima* has been suggested as one motive for Mrs Major stepping into the limelight. She gave an interview to the *Daily Mail* magazine *Weekend*, which will be followed by a BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary, *Norma Major Behind Closed Doors*, to be broadcast later this month.

Lindsay Nicholson, editor of *Prima*, insisted that Ms Booth's project had been conceived months ago. She said: "The first time we met to talk about it was in February. It was my idea to have a guest editor and Cherie was very keen to do it."

She added: "The first time I met Cherie she produced a complete contents list in which she had covered the whole magazine. She was fascinated by the whole thing and came into our offices many times. Over the past nine months, we have been faxing and bickering proofs round to her for her to approve."

Touching on social issues apparently close to her husband's heart, Ms Booth reports on employees' legal rights, the "magnificent" job being done by carers up and down

the country, and the plight of domestic violence victims.

Interviewed by eight readers over tea at the Ritz hotel, she said of her husband: "He's very good at polishing the shoes and has been known to cook a meal — if I am late in, he cooks. I wouldn't say he is intimate with our washing machine, but he knows where it is."

Of working mothers: "I feel strongly about the need to help mothers. As a working father, Tony knows about these things. He is very good — he comes to school assemblies and sports days. Parliament tends to vote at 7pm and 10pm so he tries to get home in between, but it doesn't always work out." He also drops his son Euan, 12, at the Tube station each morning.

Ms Booth, who has worked for 20 years, included articles on after-school clubs for children with working mothers, and six family meals that can be rustled up in 30 minutes. The Blair household is now apparently looking forward to stuffed peppers, pork and sage burgers, cod in beer batter, mush-

room soufflé omelette, leek and bacon rosti and Italian-style chicken.

She adds: "Sometimes I think I'm just juggling all the balls in the air and I'm amazed that they don't all fall down at once. I get a lot of support from my family."

"My mum comes up at weekends and my sister, Lyndsey, lives two minutes away. We help each other out as she has children and works too. I am lucky because I earn a decent income and I can afford a live-in nanny from Monday to Friday."

In a moment of disloyalty Ms Booth confessed that Euan and Nicky, ten, like to take the mickey out of their father by doing impressions of Rory Bremner mimicking him. But she stressed that, unlike Mrs Major, she would have no hesitation in moving to Downing Street if Labour wins the election.

"Wherever Tony goes, we are going to," Ms Booth said. "The most important thing is to keep the family together. We want to keep life as normal as possible."



Cherie Booth photographed for *Prima*: beaten to news-stands by Norma Major interview

New men will grace finishing school

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SCHOOL where young women learn to be ladies will have an unusual challenge when it opens its doors to its first live-in males this term. The young men also will be taught cookery, dressmaking, cake decoration and childcare.

Harrow House, believed to be Britain's last residential finishing school, was founded in 1907 to help young ladies to prepare themselves for the rigours of marriage and of running a home and staff.

Finishing schools in the decades up to the Sixties became a useful stepping stone between school, the Season, and the nuptial bed. Well-bred girls were polished in the essential graces and taught the elements of wifecraft such as invisible mending, etiquette, how to lay a table, how to curtsy and hold polite conversation on social occasions. Most were expected to marry money. But as the decades passed the schools were forced to widen their skills.

Harrow House, at Eastbourne, has been threatened with closure but Janet Jenion, the principal, hopes that the handful of young men roaming the previously all-female corridors when term starts in



The 1920s kitchen of the Eastbourne College of Food and Fashion, later renamed Harrow House

HARROW HOUSE

a fortnight will give it a new lease of life. So many men have rung in apply to the £3,000-a-term school that they may have to turn some applicants down.

The school has brought itself into the Nineties with the very latest equipment and vocational qualifications. "It may still be like a finishing school but it's a very modern one, aimed at finishing you off in the sense of totalling improving your image and employability. We teach practical subjects but we also teach about business and presentation skills," Mrs Jenion said.

She foresees no problems with the new male pupils. "It's natural to have a mix of the sexes. It will be healthy competition for the girls, particularly on the culinary side, and good for them socially too. I think boys can only be good

for the school and its future." Courses at the school, formerly known as the Eastbourne College of Food and Fashion, last between ten weeks and two years. The most popular is a professional chef's course. Others include fashion and design.

In this technology obsessed age, the school's appeal to men is exactly the same. Mrs Jenion insists, as to women. "There are a lot of people who are much more suited to doing practical things rather than gaining academic qualifications. Men want to know how to cook marvellously or wear great clothes just as much as women these days." She adds, however: "I think that the boys will have to be fairly brave to set foot in a place which has been traditionally all female for so long."

Skydiver survives 6,000ft plummet

AN EXPERIENCED skydiver who fell hundreds of feet when his two parachutes became entangled was recovering in hospital from back injuries yesterday.

Rob Lock, a computer operator from Barnstaple, Devon, had jumped out of a Cessna light aircraft at 6,000ft when his main parachute failed to open. He released it and activated his emergency parachute, only to see it become entangled with the one dropping to earth. Police rushed to the scene after being told by a witness that someone had jumped from the aircraft in an apparent suicide bid.

Mr Lock was able to control the tangled parachutes sufficiently to slow his descent, but hurt his back on landing. He was taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, where his condition was described as stable last night.

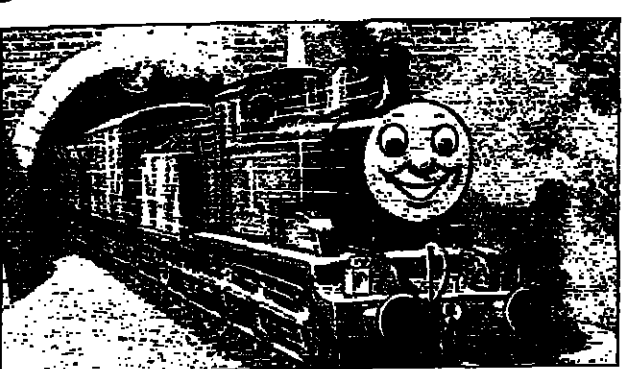
Steve Peck, owner of the Eaglescott Parachute Centre at Umberleigh, described what happened as "a freak occurrence". To say he wasn't lucky would be absurd, but to say he was lucky would be to sensationalise it. He said that Mr Lock was an experienced skydiver who had made 90 to 100 jumps in the past 18 months.

Thomas gets up steam on the City line

By ROBIN YOUNG

THOMAS the Tank Engine, the children's favourite locomotive, is in the marshalling yard, ready to join the recently privatised rail companies on the Stock Exchange.

Britt Allcroft and her husband, Angus Wright, spotted the potential of Thomas shunting his way through the Rev Wilbert Awdry's books and bought the worldwide television, film and merchandising rights in the 1980s. Mr Awdry, whose stories began as entertainment for his son, Christopher, when he had measles, urged children not to watch the television ver-



sion, but The Britt Allcroft Group has succeeded in filming more than 100 stories, broadcast in 43 countries. In the year to June 30, the company made a pre-tax

profit of £2 million on turnover of £11.5 million. Now it is seeking a full stock market listing to raise £5 million "for further international expansion and to develop addition-

al characters". Ms Allcroft and Mr Wright intend to retain their combined stake of just under half the shares, which will be worth some £12 million after flotation. Other shareholders include venture capital firms and Ringo Starr, who acquired an 8 per cent share when supplying voiceovers.

There is unlikely to be an opportunity for the public to subscribe for Thomas's stock market debut. The shares will probably be placed with institutional investors before the end of the year and will only be available to the public when dealings open on the Stock Exchange.

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35-year-old graduate gives £1m to Cambridge

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A BRITISH businessman based in California, who was a Cambridge undergraduate only 14 years ago, has pledged £1 million to his old university to help to establish its mathematics department as the world leader.

At the age of 35, Nick Corfield is the youngest of the select group of £1 million donors to British universities. His money will go into a Centre for Mathematical Studies, which will bring Cambridge's mathematicians together for the first time.

Mr Corfield gained his mathematics degree in 1982 and went to Columbia University, New York, with the aim of pursuing an academic career. But before he had completed his PhD he decided to go into business developing computer software.

His most successful product, FrameMaker, became a market leader in technical publishing. Last year the company he founded a decade ago was sold for \$500 million. Mr Corfield's exact share of the profit is not known, but he said: "I no longer have to worry about paying the rent. You could safely say I am a multimillionaire."

The plan for a donation grew out of a lunch with Professor Peter Goddard, Master of St John's, and once Mr Corfield's director of studies. Mr Corfield said: "I was very impressed by the plans for the new centre and was in a position to help. If anyone doubts the value of mathematics, I hope that seeing a businessman part with hard-earned dollars will convince them."

"You are not aware of it as a student, but having the perspective now from the West Coast of America, the concentration of mathematicians in Cambridge is the biggest and

best in the world. I think that Britain can be very proud of that, but one of the failings of the British is that they are too modest and don't like to blow their own trumpets."

The first stage of the £25 million centre is due to open in 2000. Mr Corfield is to join further fund-raising efforts for the project. He said: "Cambridge and Oxford are wonderful brand names, recognised all over the world, but they have never pushed themselves as much as the top American universities."

Professor Goddard, one of Cambridge's leading mathematicians, said: "Nick's contribution is the most tremendous boost to the project, not just for its size but for the message it sends out. As someone who has been a hugely successful product of the system, nobody could be a better example to other potential donors."

"Nick was always quite a distinctive and original thinker, with a certain degree of justifiable self-confidence. One never knows who is going to be successful at what, but if you had asked me to make a shortlist of people who might make their mark, he would probably have been on it."

Mr Corfield is now working on new products and indulging a passion for mountaineering. He was a member of the American expedition to Everest which rescued several climbers in May. "We saw some pretty gruesome cases of frostbite but, apart from that, I had a great time and will certainly be going back. I know now that it is physically well within my capacity to reach the top."

He will also be making occasional visits to Cambridge, but has promised not to meddle in the project.



The tuck shop at Windsor Clive School in Cardiff. Most children now eat at least once piece of fruit a day

Tuck shops bear fruit in healthy eating scheme

By JOHN O'LEARY

BILLY BUNTER would have been horrified: healthy tuck shops — surely a contradiction in terms — selling only fruit.

Primary schoolchildren in Wales, where the Field Fresh shops have been piloted, seem to like the idea. Now the promoters hope to have 100 running in England by the end of the year.

The first two English shops will open this week at schools in Oxfordshire. The campaign will be launched by the television cook Rustie Lee. Instead of crisps and sweets, they will be selling apples and oranges at 10p and kiwifruit at 15p.

Sue Mckerlich, head teacher of the Windsor Clive Infants School, in Cardiff, where the scheme has operated for more than a year, said: "The vast majority of our children are now eating at least one piece of fruit a day, which is very important from the point of view of health when the majority of parents are on income support."

Pupils aged five to seven run the shop under teacher supervision, teaching them to



Billy Bunter: his diet was bigger on buns

handle money. "We make no money because the whole purpose is to introduce good eating habits at a young age and help to convey the idea to the parents," Mrs Mckerlich said.

The scheme was established by the Francis Nicholls Group, a wholesaler supplying independent green-grocers. Chris Bould, the company spokesman, said: "In some areas kids are not aware of fruit because they never get any at home. This kind of approach might not work in secondary schools, where habits are more entrenched, but most primary schools do not have conventional tuck shops."

Fruitarians mourn man who followed the diet of Eden

FRUITARIANS are mourning Wilfred Crone, the 87-year-old who pioneered a diet that shuns the killing of plants. Crone was cremated at a ceremony for friends and followers last week after apparently committing suicide by throwing himself on a railway line.

With the drive that helped him to lead one of the rarest food cults in Britain, he had stayed active until his final days, tending the fig, apple and pear trees in his garden in Christchurch, Dorset. His body was found on the Bournemouth to Waterloo line near his home last month. An inquest is to be held.

Friends say he complained of aches and pains just before his death and feared that he would become a burden on others. He had written to a local newspaper supporting voluntary euthanasia.

It is four years since Mr Crone handed the mantle to a younger generation. In pamphlets produced over 15 years he championed a diet excluding cooking and the consumption of roots and leaves that could not be eaten

■ Wilfred Crone, who refused to eat anything that involved the death of a plant, has died at the age of 87. Adherents claim to feel fitter; nutritionists say they are mad. Stephen Farrell reports

without destroying the plant. Britain's climate allows most adherents to eat anything which is or contains the seed of a plant, including fruit, peppers, courgettes and cucumbers, nuts and sprouted seeds.

Mr Crone's propaganda was quasi-religious: he urged followers to "Eat life, not death" and claimed fruit as man's diet in Eden, quoting Genesis 1, 29: "Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat."

Under his successor the emphasis has changed. Gone are the references to Eden in the brightly coloured pamphlets produced by

Susie Miller, founder and co-ordinator of the Exeter-based Fruitarian and Raw Energy Support and Help network. She prefers texts on the supposed health virtues of raw food, concentrating on enzymes, low cholesterol and the yield per acre of fruit trees.

Ms Miller, like Mr Crone, claims that cooking is unnatural and introduces toxins into the body. She also claims that fruitarianism takes the vegan ethos of compassionate living a step further "in that by eating just the fruits, you are not even killing the plant for your food".

But many food experts express deep concerns at such a limited diet. One nutritionist dismissed strict fruitarians as "barking mad",

and Amanda Ursell, a state-registered dietitian, gave warning that they risked deficiencies in iron, Vitamin B12 and essential fatty acids. "We throw up our hands in horror. With those who eat huge quantities of fruit there is an increased risk of diabetes from the strain of producing insulin to break down large quantities of fructose. You do find fruitarians who look reasonably healthy, but you often discover they have not been following the diet for very long and may therefore be living off reserves in their bodies."

Fruitarians dismiss such concerns. Karen Noble, 49, a shiatsu practitioner from Finchley, north London, lives mainly off fruit and eats up to 20 mangoes a day. "I do go orange in the mango season," she admits, "but I feel very good and very fit. It gives you a huge amount of energy and you age slowly."

"The thing about fruitarianism is that you are not murdering anything; you eat the fruit and you spit the seeds out. It is delicious and it happens to be saving the Earth as well."

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هكذا من الأصل

Child charities attack gallery's explicit display

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CHILD charities were the first to express concern yesterday over a sexually explicit exhibition of photographs due to be shown in London later this month.

The Hayward Gallery, which receives a share of the Arts Council's £13 million grant to the South Bank, will be staging a retrospective of Robert Mapplethorpe, whose sadomasochistic work was condemned as perverted shortly before his death from Aids in 1989.

Mapplethorpe's photographs, denounced in America as demonic, are primarily about sex between men, intertwined and joined in ways that few would imagine possible: some feature bullwhips and guns next to male genitalia, viewed so that nothing is left to the imagination.

The inclusion of a 1976 portrait of a girl no older than five, sitting with legs astride without underwear, was criticised yesterday by Esther Rantzen, who is chairman of ChildLine. She said: "It is utterly horrific. It has no artistic merit. It is child pornography. It was taken of a child at a time when that child had no free choice and did not understand the implications, I hope. I have seen soft porn showing adult women in precisely this pose. The Hayward Gallery should not be showing this."

John Rea Price, director of the National Children's Bureau, a charity which aims to promote children's interests, said: "For art to be used as an excuse to legitimise child pornography is totally unacceptable."

Graham St John-Willey, director of Action for Children Campaign, the international



Mapplethorpe viewed in his Self-Portrait

organisation concerned with children's rights and sexual exploitation, said he was considering contacting Scotland Yard with an official complaint. "It is disgraceful to include such a photograph," he said.

"This sort of thing today is unacceptable. The mere possession of indecent material is an offence. If you have it in your possession, you have to show good cause. An artistic licence is not a good cause if a photograph is indecent."

Mapplethorpe's photographs, hotly pursued by collectors, redefine the word "controversial". While the art world hailed him as the greatest photographer of his generation, and celebrities were among his sitters, the American senator Jesse Helms joined religious groups and family associations in expressing outrage and shock at imagery exploring the pain and pleasure of sex.

The exhibition, the most extensive Mapplethorpe retrospective ever mounted, will include 200 images. The Hayward's leaflet notes: "In his life as in his art, Mapplethorpe

explored the unspoken boundaries of American society."

A Hayward spokeswoman admitted that as a publicly-funded gallery, they are debating whether one of the explicit works, *Fisting*, should be shown at all. Their September 19 exhibition leaflet has a warning: "The exhibition contains a number of sexually explicit images which some visitors might find disturbing. It is not recommended for children."

A police source said that if the Hayward was having any doubts about any of the images, it should consult the police for a "full and reasoned discussion, to head off any public complaints". He added: "It must be in their interests to invite the police to a pre-launch viewing." The police are generally unable to act until the exhibition is running and a complaint is made.

Arts, page 18



A chained figure on a central Liverpool monument is said to reflect the slave trade

Heritage dispute over Liverpool's slavery tours

By PAUL WILKINSON

A TOUR claiming to illustrate Liverpool's dark past as a centre of the slave trade has provoked a dispute between historians.

Tourist publicity material for the Transatlantic Slavery Trail claims that the trade was "central to the development of the city and its economy", but some experts say that the port's role has been exaggerated and that the tour will worsen Liverpool's image.

Fritz Spiegel, a Merseyside author and historian, said it would "feed visitors' fantasy, not history". The tour, which cost £15,000 to establish, will include iron rings at the Pier Head where slaves were said to have been shackled, and the Town Hall, where carvings of negro heads can be seen. It is being staged by Merseyside Maritime Museum, which last year produced a controversial exhibition on Liverpool's involvement in the trade.

Mr Spiegel, who wrote *An Everyday History of Liverpool*, said: "The city suffers from a negative image and this will

not help. It will simply encourage rage and anger among various groups. The tour is full of wild exaggerations. It is stupid to say there were iron rings for chaining slaves, because slaves never came to Liverpool in any numbers."

David Hollen, another local historian, said: "Liverpool's wealth came from its role as a major port at the time. The slave trade was important, but represented only 8.8 per cent of the city's trade."

"Ninety per cent of the residents of Liverpool and the Wirral are industrial immigrants who arrived after the abolition of slavery. The whole idea seems to be getting people to hang their heads in shame for something they had no hand in."

But Mike Boyle, an historian who is training tour guides, said: "We have got to face up to these things. Liverpool was the leading slave port in Europe in the 18th century, accounting for about 40 per cent of the trade. Without it, Liverpool would have remained a fishing hamlet."

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Smack challenge boy 'totally out of control'

A BOY aged 12, who will challenge his parents' right to smack him at the European Court today, was described by his mother as being "totally out of control".

The boy, who is being backed by his father, will claim that his human rights were violated when his stepfather beat him with a cane. His mother claimed that the boy's behaviour was so bad that his natural father had in the past resorted to corporal punishment to discipline him.

The mother, aged 34, who has four other children, said

she had had problems with the boy since he was two years old. "He would climb out of the cot and wreck the house." She said she had lost count of the times she had been called to his school because of his disruptive behaviour.

On one occasion, his stepfather beat him as he was trying to stab one of the other children with a kitchen knife. Since then, she said, the boy had gone to live with his father and none of the other children had been smacked for fear of their being taken away by social service agencies.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Your chance to question Tony Blair



READERS are invited to a forum where Tony Blair, the leader of the Labour Party since July 1994, will set out his political vision and priorities for a new Britain. The audience will have the opportunity to question Mr Blair's views on a raft of policy areas, from taxation to the minimum wage, the National Health Service to education.

Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, the forum marks the publication of Mr Blair's book, *New Britain - My Vision of a Young Country* (Fourth Estate, £8.99), and will be at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday, September 19 at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions) include £2 off the price of Mr Blair's book and are available by telephoning 0171-467 1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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As I am now 32 years old is there something wrong with me? Ignored, COVENTRY.

TAXMAN SAYS Age has nothing to do with whether you get a tax return or not. We will send you a tax return if you are self-employed, a company director, or someone with more complex tax affairs. Most people don't get a tax return so you're certainly not alone. However, if you receive income that has not been taxed and you haven't been sent a tax return you must tell us. Call your Tax Office and talk to someone there if you are still worried. The telephone number is in the phone book under 'Inland Revenue'.

DO I NEED AN ACCOUNTANT?

Dear Taxman To date, I have always enjoyed handling my tax affairs personally. I find it a very stimulating and interesting pastime. Will I now be forced to use an accountant and give up one of my few interests in life? Bored, DYFED.

TAXMAN SAYS Not if you don't wish to. If you already deal with tax affairs yourself there is no reason to change. In fact, if you are organised and

AM I UP-TO-DATE?

Dear Taxman As soon as I buy clothes they immediately go out of style. I spend a fortune on an exotic holiday only to discover it was the place to go last year. I get rid of all my easy listening records, next day they are back in fashion. I am beginning to suspect that I may be just one of those people who is always behind the times. How can I be sure that I am up-to-date with my tax? Concerned, LEICESTER.

TAXMAN SAYS Simple. Have you filled in and sent off all the tax returns that you have received? Have you replied to any letters we have sent you? Have you paid all your tax bills? If the answer is 'yes' to all of these then don't worry, you're up-to-date. And if it's any help, white stilettos are due for a comeback.

NO MORE TAX

Dear Taxman Is Self Assessment just a cunning way of wheedling more tax out of me? Paranoid, BARNES.

TAXMAN SAYS No. Self Assessment is not a new tax and does not affect the amount of tax you pay. It is just a clearer and more straightforward system for working out and paying tax.

How big is it?

Dear Taxman How big is the new Self Assessment tax form? I have a bad back and the doctor says I can't do any heavy lifting. Worried, BRADFORD.

TAXMAN SAYS From next April most people will get a basic, slim-line, eight-page tax return, along with any extra pages we think you may need. (If, for example,

Please send me more information about Self Assessment.

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Shopkeepers bank on keeping services of village visionary

Businesses in a small Irish community are thriving thanks to a woman who claims contact with the Virgin Mary. But not everyone is happy, Nicholas Watt reports

TRADERS and hoteliers in the village of Achill Sound, Co Mayo, have rallied to the support of a self-proclaimed visionary who is being investigated by the Roman Catholic Church.

More than 70 villagers attended a public meeting to fight to retain Christina Gallagher, who claims to receive messages from the Virgin Mary and to suffer stigmata. The shopkeepers who called the meeting, after some local people voiced opposition to Mrs Gallagher, are delighted that she attracts more than 10,000 pilgrims a year to Achill Sound.

Every weekend busloads of

returning to the house for Mass, which is held in an elaborately decorated chapel at the side of the building.

In his homily, which was broadcast to pilgrims outside the chapel, Father McGinitty told how Mrs Gallagher had cured numerous people. In one case a young boy, who was flown from New York "doubled up in pain" from rheumatoid arthritis, "took no medication from the day he came here".

Father McGinitty, who said that Mrs Gallagher could not read when she left school, gave a detailed account of her contacts with the Virgin Mary. "This infusion of knowledge strikes her like a light during Mass," he said. "She cannot express it, she doesn't know what it is until God allows her. Then the floodgates open, the knowledge pours forth and she uses words she wouldn't normally use."

Father McGinitty told the congregation that the most important part of Mrs Gallagher's work was her suffering "in soul, mind and heart". He added: "Christina is a victim's soul crushed. She is crushed for the saving of souls. That is the essential part of her mission."

He said that the authenticity of Mrs Gallagher's mission was shown by the work of an Irishman who smuggled her Matrix Medal into Middle Eastern countries. Mrs Gallagher claims that, in an apparition in 1988, the Virgin Mary asked her to strike a medal that showed Mary kneeling in front of the cross on one side and two hearts of Jesus and Mary weeping tears of blood on the other side. Father McGinitty said that each time Customs officials inspected the Irishman's bags they never touched the bag containing the Matrix Medals.

After Mass yesterday the



Pilgrims fill up with holy water outside Christina Gallagher's House of Prayer

pilgrims bought copies of Mrs Gallagher's biography, entitled *Out of the East and onto the Cross*, from a small shop. The shop also sold video tapes of Mrs Gallagher and pictures of the Virgin Mary weeping blood. One elderly woman, who was in a neck brace and walked with sticks, had travelled from Scotland. She said she felt spiritually

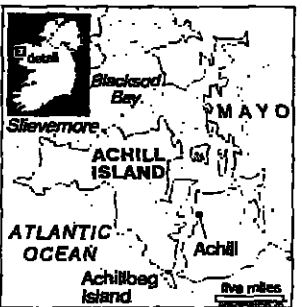
uplifted and added: "Christina really cheered me up and made me forget my aches and pains. Peace and quiet descended on the crowd when she appeared. You could have heard a pin drop."

Local shopkeepers say they welcome the influx of thousands of tourists a year to Achill Sound. Mary Gallagher, who is not related to

the visionary, runs a general store next to the village post office. She said: "Christina has been great for our community. Since this all started the crowds have been pouring in. We all hope that Christina will be able to stay."

At the public meeting, shopkeepers had pointed out that Mrs Gallagher had brought much-needed business to the area. "No amount of advertising could have brought that much business," another shopkeeper said. "If Christina gives peace, satisfaction and tranquillity, who am I to say she is wrong?"

Other locals are less impressed. One family living close to the House of Prayer have complained about the crowds and Father John Fallon, the parish priest whose church is a few hundred yards away, is awaiting the outcome of the inquiry by the Right Rev Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam. He took action after Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, gave warning against a "proliferation of alleged visions, apparitions and messages" with the approach of the new millennium.



Map showing the location of Achill Sound, Co Mayo, Ireland.

people from all over Ireland, Britain and the United States travel to Achill Island for a glimpse of Mrs Gallagher, who appears outside her House of Prayer on Saturdays and Sundays. This Saturday several hundred people, mostly pensioners suffering from various ailments, congregated in front of the house just before 3pm Mass.



Mrs Gallagher with her spiritual director, Father Gerard McGinitty, and one of the keepsakes sold at the shop

Police seize leaflets at meeting of Muslims

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE planned rally of 14,000 Muslim fundamentalists to declare an Islamic state in Britain flopped yesterday when 100 people turned up to listen to militant leaders.

Police confiscated hundreds of anti-Semitic leaflets handed out by supporters of Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad who gathered at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park after their "Rally for Revival" at the London Arena in Docklands was cancelled for security reasons. His ten-minute speech to 50 followers, calling for the worldwide liberation of Muslims, was drowned out by whistles blown by 15 gay rights campaigners. Sheikh Bakri, leader of the al-Muhajiroun movement, has reportedly urged all homosexuals to throw themselves from the Big Ben.

A further 50 people listened to a speech by the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari. Police intervened to stop the distribution of leaflets entitled "Muslim vs Judaism", criticising Jews and Israel. A constable said: "We are seizing these sheets because they are an incitement to racial hatred."

The Sheikh said later: "Muslims have been living here for 60 years and have never broken any law. This Islamophobia is a sign of the bankruptcy of Western ideology."

Catherine Moseley, whose boyfriend Paul Wells was kidnapped in Kashmir in 1995 with Keith Mangan and other Westerners, asked the Muslims to help secure his release.

Leading article, page 21

Actor Irons has second car accident in a week

BY TIM JONES

THE actor Jeremy Irons was yesterday recovering from his second car crash within a week. Police investigating the latest accident believe that Mr Irons, 46, escaped severe injuries because he was at the wheel of a left-hand-drive vehicle, which saved him from the full impact of the head-on collision.

The accident, which occurred on Saturday, seriously injured the driver of the other car, Richard Belgrave, 80, who was given an emergency operation. His wife, Doris, 83, suffered shock and minor injuries and both were detained at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The accident happened in the village of Tetworth, Oxfordshire, a few miles from Watlington, where Mr Irons lives with his wife, Sinead Cusack, and their two sons. Although badly shocked, Mr Irons, the only occupant of the four-wheel-drive vehicle he was driving, stayed at the scene for 45 minutes as fire crews cut Mr Belgrave free from his car.

The actor was then driven by his wife to Stoke Mandeville Hospital, near Aylesbury, where he was treated for minor injuries. Acting Sergeant Frank Yabsley, of Thames Valley Police, said: "Mr Irons was very shocked indeed, but stayed on the scene because he wanted to make sure the elderly gentleman was released."

Last week Mr Irons and his two sons had a crash on the M4 in which the family horsebox turned over.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Engineers urged to publicise air errors

Airline engineers are being urged to make public any examples of faulty maintenance on passenger aircraft amid growing concern over the number of near disasters caused by mistakes in the hangar. The Royal Aeronautical Society plans to publish the ten most serious incidents reported to them each month in its magazine *Aerospace*. "It is basic mistakes, the first items taught in training, which often cause the problems," the society said. The Civil Aviation Authority is already investigating maintenance procedures after a stinging attack by air accident investigators.

HMSO sale hitch

The privatisation of the Stationery Office has run into difficulties, apparently over pension arrangements for staff transferring to the new company. Ministers are also concerned about publicity linking the proposed buyer, Electra Fleming, with the Tory party. Talks on the sale are continuing.

Lottery jobs

The National Lottery will create or protect more than 13,000 jobs in five years, Jeremy Peat, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, believes. Grants will boost the building trade by £1.3 billion a year, almost half of that going to Scotland, Wales and London. Winning numbers, page 24.

Dole 'deters theft'

Rising unemployment has reduced theft in the workplace as new research shows that workers are too scared of losing their jobs to risk pilfering. The study, from a team funded by the Government's Economic and Social Research Council, is part of a programme concerning the social aspects of crime.

Well policed

Ministry of Defence Police, which is facing 1,500 job losses over the next few years, has been boosted in its campaign against the cuts by a public opinion survey praising the force for its professionalism. The survey, based on 5,500 questionnaires, revealed a satisfaction rate of more than 90 per cent.

Roman canals

The Northern Archaeology Group says it has evidence that the Romans built a network of inland waterways in Britain. Near Sedgfield, Co Durham, for instance, they are said to have enhanced a series of natural lakes along the River Skerne to form a link between the Tees and Wear.

INNOVATORS IN HISTORY NO. 10

John BRADLEY

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



RUNCIE, ROYALTY & RELIGION

Part 3
Life with Lindy
PLUS: The
Lindy Parvies column

STYLE

What the best
dressed legs
are wearing
PLUS:
Win a mobile
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Interface

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A Time to Kill
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24-PAGE FASHION SUPPLEMENT

Your guide to the best of autumn, in the Magazine
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Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers
and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERYDAY THIS WEEK COLLECT TOKENS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF FIVE CLASSIC SPORTS CARS

Computer system takes plod out of police work

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER system that could solve crimes and tell detectives who they should arrest or question will be put on trial by four police forces this autumn.

Known as Crimenet, the system matches film from closed-circuit television cameras at the scenes of crime with police mugshots and material gathered by criminal intelligence. The evaluation will be based on film taken of armed robberies at banks and building societies.

The system could eventually have a far wider use in streets and city centres as local authorities and retailers increasingly introduce the cameras in shopping malls, car parks and public transport systems. Comparisons made by the computer could also be accepted in court similar to fingerprint matches.

The system was developed by the Police Foundation, a charity and police think-tank, working with British Aerospace and the two main suppliers of security cameras to financial institutions. Serious

crime squads and intelligence offices in at least four forces will test the system, which has aroused extensive interest among chief constables.

Dr Barrie Irving, director of the foundation, said the system was developed to make use of the vast amount of film taken at crime scenes but which was often wasted. Police were often faced with the time-consuming task of trying to match the images on the film with thousands of mugshots.

Instead, Crimenet takes the pictures from the closed-circuit television and compares them with a databank of convicted or suspected criminals. The criminals' features are turned into a geometric computer code and stored in an archive. Pictures from the scene are also turned into code and the computer sifts the two sets of details for a match.

The software holds individual details, such as the way in which criminals work, types of disguise, weapons used and unusual features such as jewellery collected by police from previous crimes by the suspect. The computer also compares these with evidence from the scene of crime.

Armed criminals sometimes use disguises, but Dr Irving said the system would cope with that. Measurements such as height and weight could also be computed from the crime videos and matched. Crimenet could also be used to identify whether the same robber or fraudster had been involved in a string of offences by comparing film from a series of incidents.

Dr Irving said Crimenet could be invaluable both in identifying likely suspects and in eliminating some suspects. He said: "The images may be good enough to provide evidence in court or give local investigators a head start. At the moment a great deal of time and effort will be spent on suspects who are not the right people."

Schools to be given guide on security

THE Government is today to publish a guide urging schools to review their safety and consider measures such as personal attack alarms, closed-circuit television cameras and guards. There is likely to be argument about how to pay for the measures.

Teachers' leaders and parents' representatives have called for cash now for security measures. Robin Squire, the Education Minister, is expected to repeat the Government's commitment to "substantial additional funding" but not until April. Schools would then bid for cash distributed to local education authorities.

Girl, 13, saves two from arson attack

A GIRL aged 13 led her younger brother and sister to safety after petrol was poured over the front door and set alight early yesterday.

Carly Wood was woken at 2.30am when a brick was thrown through the window of the house in Swindon, Wiltshire, while her parents were out. She was confronted in the hallway by thick smoke and flames. She woke her sister Samantha, 8, and brother Samman, 7, and shut them in the bathroom with instructions not to open the door. Her shouts were heard by a neighbour, who helped to lift the children out of a window.

Their parents, Ian and Jennifer, who were both working at a nightclub, paid tribute yesterday to Carly's bravery

and presence of mind. Mr Woods, 37, said: "We're very proud of Carly. She did really well. She didn't panic at all." Inspector Paul Eastham said: "She behaved in a very mature and responsible way in what was a potentially very dangerous situation."

Mr Eastham added: "It is a very worrying incident but we believe that it may be linked to a dispute between an adult member of the household and others. This was a very serious incident which had horrendous potential." He said that child protection officers and social services staff would be investigating why the three children were alone at the time of the arson attack. "We would stress though that this young girl acted very sensibly."

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Author wrote of his acute distaste for anti-Jewish sentiments and Hitler's speeches

Diaries shed new light on Beckett's hatred of Nazis

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PREVIOUSLY unseen diaries written by Samuel Beckett during his stay in prewar Germany reveal his revulsion for Hitler, compassion for the Jews and a feverish enthusiasm for the visual arts that informed his stage work.

The diaries, which will revise previous studies of the obsessively private Irish author of classics such as *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*, are to be published within a scholarly biography by Professor James Knowlson. He said yesterday: "These diaries are obviously a discovery of major importance. It astonished me when I got them. I felt very excited and daunted. They were offered to him exclusively by Beckett's nephew, Edward, a professional flautist."

Professor Knowlson, a leading Beckett authority, was a friend of the author for 20 years, from 1970 until his death in 1989 at the age of 93. Beckett authorised him to be his official biographer, on the condition that the book was not published during his lifetime. "It will give you more freedom," Beckett said.

The diaries, written in large-format 560 folios, are tightly written and cover the years 1930 and 1937. Beckett wrote in English and German, with some French, recording conversations, for example, in their original language.

"They reveal an awful lot of his personality. They let me get into his mind in a unique way that you can't get with his letters," Professor Knowlson said. "They are very much Beckett. They are meditative, thoughtful — about his situa-



The young Beckett, left, mocked the "interminable harangues" of Hitler, Goebbels and Goering



tion and himself — and analytical. They are also extremely learned and intellectual. People haven't realised how much of a scholar he remained after he left his lectureship in 1931."

An earlier biography, he said, concluded that Beckett was unconcerned about what was happening in Germany at that time, although he was

later to join the Resistance. But the diaries show the beginnings of his opposition to Nazism and his evolving political attitude.

Beckett described his irritation at Hitler's speeches and listened to anti-Jewish sentiments "with acute distaste". His writings reveal an amused disdain for what he mocked as "the interminable

harangues" of Hitler, Goering and Goebbels.

For example, he found it comical to see how, during a radio broadcast of a Hitler speech, one by one the people listening in his hotel drifted off to bed. Later he described a couple he had met in Berlin as "appalling Nazi". There are numerous entries in which he moaned about those who preached the National Socialist gospel; the repeated Hell Hitler greetings irritated him.

Beckett was scribbling several pages each day, often taking notes as he visited galleries, his main reason for going to Hamburg, Berlin and Munich. He made detailed observations of specific paintings and became obsessed by Giorgione's self-portrait, repeatedly returning to see it.

Professor Knowlson said that the writings reflected the extent of Beckett's scholarly knowledge of painting. His social circle in Germany included numerous contemporary painters, many of them Jewish. His love of art was to exude through his dramatic images: "Beckett's stage images owe a tremendous amount to the Old Masters."

He pointed to Antonello da Messina's *Virgin of the Annunciation* in the Alte Pinakothek in Munich, about which Beckett wrote: "Head and shoulders. Superb. With the aghast look, consternated skivvy." Professor Knowlson likened the figure to the character of May, the pacing figure in Beckett's *Footfalls*, in which the author directed Billie Whitelaw.

□ *Damned To Fame: The Life Of Samuel Beckett*, will be published by Bloomsbury on September 19.



Professor Knowlson with extracts from Beckett's German diaries

NEWS IN BRIEF

Choir head killed in bridge fall

Christopher Barnett, 37, founder of Wenham Boys' Choir, is thought to have killed himself by jumping off the 150ft Orwell Bridge near Ipswich. His body was found on mudflats near by. The choir, made up of boys from north Suffolk, has won many international awards. Mr Barnett married with two children.

Visitor dies in fire

A woman has died in a fire at a house in Handsworth, Birmingham, less than 24 hours after arriving from America for a family reunion. Joyce Williams, who was in her 60s, was found unconscious in an upstairs bedroom.

Rock of ages

A lightning conductor on the steeple at Golar, near Huddersfield, picks up Radio 1 and relays it on the church's PA system during services. The Rev Martyn Crompton said: "We try to use modern music, but not on this scale."

US flies in

The first aircraft have been moved into the new £11 million American section of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, near Cambridge. The building will house 20 aircraft, from a First World War biplane to Gulf War jets.

Offer grounded

Staff at Heathrow airport have snubbed a £200 tax-free offer to use public transport rather than drive to work. Only 20 out of 3,000 BAA staff have opted to trade in their parking passes for the cash.

Early smelter

What could be the oldest tin-smelting furnace in western Europe has been found at a medieval site near Bodmin, Cornwall. It is thought to have been used as early as the 12th century.

Slimmer by half

A woman who weighed 18st 3lbs two years ago was named Slimmer of the Year. Elaine Neale, 30, of Bedworth, Warwickshire, met her fiancé after reaching her target of 9st 7lbs.

How Irish terrorist leader broke the heart of London society hostess

By NICHOLAS WATT

A NEW book provides illuminating details of Michael Collins's dalliance with a leading London hostess when the Sinn Féin leader was based in the capital during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations in 1921.

Collins, who is played by Liam Neeson in a controversial new film, was said to have shared his secrets

as a terrorist leader with Lady Lavery, the wife of the painter Sir John Lavery. The Laverys, who visited Ireland in 1921, struck up a friendship with Collins when they opened their house in Cromwell Place, Kensington, to the Irish delegation at the negotiations with Lloyd George.

Lady Lavery and Collins became "intimate friends" after Sir John painted Collins's portrait, according

to the book by Sinead McCoole, entitled *Hazel: A Life of Lady Lavery, 1880-1935*. Collins had become engaged to Kitty Kiernan the night before he left for London in November 1921. But by early 1922 he was writing romantic poetry and letters to Lady Lavery. In one letter, in April 1922, he wrote: "I know I shall never again meet anyone so beautiful, so gay, so sad as you."

Lady Lavery travelled to Ireland

after the Treaty when Collins was immersed in the Civil War with republicans who were opposed to the partitioning of Ireland. Lady Lavery was said to be "pale with excitement" and fear when Collins travelled to Cork in August 1922, where he was murdered on the 22nd by anti-treaty republicans.

The book says: "Hazel was awoken the next morning by her maid to be informed: 'They have shot Mr

Collins, my lady.' The grief-stricken Hazel ... said: 'I knew it before I saw it in the papers. I had seen him in a dream, his face covered in blood' ... Hazel wanted to wear widow's weeds, but her friend restrained her."

The book was serialised in the *Sunday Independent* yesterday as Neil Jordan, the director of the new film about Collins, dismissed criticism that it would boost the IRA.

Speaking after the film won best film and Neeson best actor at the Venice Film Festival, Mr Jordan said that the film did not give any comfort to supporters of violence.

He told RTE: "The film is obviously tremendously pregnant with all sorts of resonance for the present ... But it does show the difficulty, or actually the impossibility, Collins himself found in removing the gun from Irish politics."

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Highways chief admits roads are in poor state

BRITAIN'S main roads are increasingly untidy and unkempt and the source of a large number of complaints, according to a letter written by Lawrence Haynes, chief executive of the Highways Agency.

The comments, in a letter to a Tory MP, dated August 30 and released yesterday by the RAC, said that, in addition to other problems, drain and ditch cleaning, grass cutting, litter clearance and sign cleaning had all been reduced this year due to insufficient funds.

Edmund King, the RAC's head of campaigns, said the letter revealed the sorry condition of Britain's roads. "It is a scandal that the nation's vital infrastructure is being allowed to crumble into disrepair, with overgrown verges, unreadable traffic signs, foul-smelling ditches and unusable roads and bridges."

He said the Highways Agency could not do its job with insufficient money from the Treasury. "Britain's roads increasingly resemble those of an impoverished state and the current crisis could hit winter maintenance hard," he said.

Mr Haynes wrote: "We judge that an increase in the overall trunk road maintenance budget from £526 million to some £600 million next year will enable us to prevent further serious deterioration." He added that preventative works had not been carried out this year.

Takeaway oil platform goes on sale for £30m

THE American oil company Phillips Petroleum is advertising the availability of its giant 112,000-tonne Maureen production platform, built in Scotland and installed 163 miles northeast of Aberdeen.

The structure, which is 625ft high, has been pumping oil since 1983. The expected price for the platform is £30 million; a new one would cost at least £100 million and take four years to design and build.

The platform is the only steel one in the North Sea and was designed to be towed away and reused. Instead of being planned to be scabbed with steel piles, it rests by gravity on top of three oil storage tanks.

The company's engineers have recently conducted a study into relocating it and believe that it can be done, probably at a cost of about a further £30 million. A spokeswoman said: "The platform is in very good order and it should have a life of at least another 25 to 30 years."

Originally 36 million gallons of crude oil per day (400,000 barrels) gushed through its facilities, but now that the field is almost drained the flow-rate is down to just a tenth of this. Phillips Petroleum believes that all the extractable oil will have been pumped out in between two and four years' time.

Body Shop renews fight for animal-testing ban

BODY SHOP, the natural cosmetics retailer, launches a campaign today for a European Union ban on testing cosmetics on animals. A MORI poll conducted for the group has found that such a ban has overwhelming support in Britain.

The campaign is in response to a leaked copy of confidential European Commission documents, which show that the EU may delay indefinitely the start of its own previously

agreed ban. Anita Roddick, founder of Body Shop, said: "This is another ridiculous proposal made behind closed doors by the same sort of EU officials who five years ago wanted to make it compulsory for cosmetic companies to test everything on animals."

"We successfully defeated the plan then. This time we'll take six million signatures to Brussels and make the EU politicians listen to the people and impose the ban."

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Suppliers say rule change intended to control felling of forests will end decades of rural tradition

Willow cutters fear red tape will stump batsmen

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT



W.G. Grace in action: More than 90 per cent of the world's bats are made from English trees

THE crack of leather on willow echoing around the village green is under threat from an official gooley. Cricket-bat manufacturers face a shortage of raw material because the felling of willows on small patches of farmland has been disrupted by new rules designed to control the felling of forests.

Traditional makers who have been using the native wood since before the days of W.G. Grace are talking about turning to alternative methods. Forestry Commission officials in East Anglia, where the largest amount is grown, say they sympathise but have been overruled by their head office in Edinburgh, not famous as a city of cricket lovers.

The threat to world supplies stems from a little-noticed development last May when Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary and minister in charge of forestry, announced that, in future, all applications for licences to fell trees would

have to go on a public register for at least 28 days. The aim was to allow time for the public, conservation groups, local authorities and others to scrutinise forest-felling plans and raise objections on environmental or other grounds. Cricket suppliers, who grow willows beside rivers or ditches, say that the delay may deny them the opportunity to reach their trees.

Carleton Wright, chairman of J.S. Wright & Sons of Great Leighs, Essex, suppliers of cricket willow since 1894, said: "We have to work in close co-operation with the farmers on whose land we grow our trees. Farmers ring us up when the corn is cut and say, 'Come and fell your trees now.'"

"In 14 days the field will have been ploughed and the next crop sown. If we miss the opportunity, we may not be able to get on to the land for another year. This red tape could strangle our business."

More than 90 per cent of the world's bats are made from English trees, which are the only significant source of the variety of white willow, *Salix alba* var. *coerulea*. Kashmir, the other main grower, keeps supplies for domestic use.

Mr Wright, son of the firm's founder, is 84 but still works most mornings sorting the rough-hewn cricket bat blades, or "clefts", into 20 different quality grades. Although the firm produces the raw material for an estimated two thirds of world cricket bat production, it remains a family business. Mr Wright's nephew, Nick Carlton, is managing director, and a grandson, Jeremy, became involved on leaving school a few years ago.

The wedge-shaped clefts are split by hand from sections of willow trunk, roughly cut by circular saws into cricket blade shape, dried for eight weeks in airing sheds, then sold on to bat manufacturers for finishing. This year the



Carleton Wright, 84, grading willow at the firm his father founded. He said: "This could strangle our business"

Wrights expect to produce 250,000 blades of which about half will be exported.

The post-harvest period is crucial. Up to 30 per cent of the 5,000 to 5,500 trees the Wrights need each year will be felled in the next two months. Chris Price, the only director

who is not a family member, said: "Any disruption could force manufacturers to look at other materials. It is not as if we are denuding the countryside. We plant up to three trees for every one we fell."

Another producer, Doug Watling, of the Anglian Wil-

low Service at High Ongar, Essex, whose family has been supplying bat willow for four generations, said: "Unless we can impress on the powers that be that the 28-day licence is totally unworkable, it will be the end for my business."

In a letter last month to Mr Watling, Andrew Mason, the Forestry Commission conservator for East Anglia, said: "We have argued strongly that cricket bat willow should be excluded, but our hands are tied in this matter."

Cricket, pages 32-34

Budget curbs will hit inmates, says prisons director

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE prison population could reach a record 59,000 within six months because the number entering English and Welsh jails is running at 250 a week, according to the Director-General of the Prison Service.

Richard Tilt said that, faced with this population, budget cuts of 13.3 per cent over three years were no longer sustainable without damaging regimes for inmates and cutting the number of hours they spend out of cells. "If we do not get extra money, we shall have to seriously reduce our operations," he said. "Security cannot be touched so we will be looking at less time spent on purposeful activities."

The latest population figure is 4,500 above previous estimates and comes as Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is involved in public expenditure discussions with the Treasury. The squeeze on spending comes as the Government faces a mounting bill for its "prison works" policy and to meet the costs of recommendations made in the Learmont report for improved jail security and training of staff.

A further £75 million is needed to provide additional accommodation to deal with

the rising population. Hundreds of millions are needed to meet key recommendations made by the Learmont report into jail security, including minimum security standards.

Mr Tilt said that the service was beginning to plan for the consequences of the Government's planned tougher sentencing regime for burglars and drug dealers. He said that it had identified 20 sites where new houseblocks costing about £100 million could be built to house a further 3,000 prisoners.

The curbs on expenditure have resulted in the service appointing a career civil servant rather than a person with private-sector experience as the next director of finance. The appointment of Robert Fulton, a former director of industries and farms, was met with reservations by some Prisons Board members.

There is a shortfall of 20,000 homes for ex-offenders with at least a third of those released unable to find a home, according to the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. Money for such a purpose was suspended by the Home Office in 1992, when £5 million was earmarked.

Sleuths solve case of sick detective



MEDICAL BRIEFING

AS P.D. JAMES'S Inspector Dalgliesh in the television series, Roy Marsden became the popular image of the intelligent and well-read, but sardonic, detective. Recently Marsden was the victim and his doctors had to do the detective work. The actor collapsed suddenly with a severe chest pain and breathlessness during an after-rehearsal dinner.

Fortunately, in his case, the symptoms were of such dramatic onset that the cause must have been obvious to the most recently qualified PC Plod of the medical world. The actor had had a spontaneous pneumothorax, in which air enters the pleural space from the lung. As air accumulates in the space, the lung is progressively compressed and the patient becomes more breathless. When a large amount of air suddenly escapes from the lung into the pleural cavity, acute breathlessness occurs.

When a large air bubble has formed, the chest contents are forced over to one side so that the trachea and larynx are no longer central and the heart is not where one expects to find it. One side of the chest sounds as hollow as a drum when the doctor taps it, and when he listens it is silent, devoid of the usual sounds of breathing. The X-ray confirms the absence of lung markings. In a massive pneumothorax, such as Mr Marsden seems to have suffered, the

pain may be so severe and the breathlessness, sometimes accompanied by a cough, so acute that the patient may suffer physiological shock, occasionally with serious consequences. Spontaneous pneumothorax affects men six times more often than women; the men are usually tall and thin and under 40.

Air escapes from the lung into the pleura to cause pneumothorax when a bulla, or blister, in the lung bursts. Bullae may be present as congenital abnormalities or they may have formed as a result of long-standing lung disease, in particular emphysema, which is common among smokers. Playing the trumpet or other wind instruments is popularly thought to trigger the disaster. Mr Marsden, 55, was a heavy smoker until last year and the damage done by that is probably the underlying cause of his trouble.

Treatment is simple. A very small pneumothorax is left to nature and the air is reabsorbed without medical interference. In larger cases it has to be drawn off, with the method depending on the size of the pneumothorax. The good news is that patients initially make an excellent recovery, as has Mr Marsden. The bad news is that 30 per cent have a recurrence.

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Sex scandal aide faces Republican subpoena threat

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House is suffering fresh embarrassment after congressional Republicans announced that they are planning to subpoena Dick Morris, President Clinton's disgraced political guru.

The Republican chairmen of two House and Senate committees said they wanted to question Mr Morris after the prostitute with whom he had a year-long affair claimed he had told her that Hillary Clinton was behind the "Fliegate scandal".

Sherry Rowlands, the prostitute, said she asked Mr Morris during one of their meetings at Washington's Jefferson Hotel who ordered the White House's improper acquisition of as many as 900 confidential FBI files on Republican officials. According to a contemporaneous entry in her diary, Mr Morris replied: "It was Hillary in 1993. She ordered them. She's a paranoid lady — she did it."

The White House angrily denied that claim, and said Mr Morris had telephoned Clinton campaign officials to deny the comments Ms Rowlands had attributed to him.

However, William Clinger, who chairs the House committee that has been investigating the files affair, said he could

not dismiss the charge "coming as it does from someone [Mr Morris] who was clearly in a position to know and had access to the very highest levels of the White House in June 1996 when my committee first uncovered this massive invasion of privacy".

Mr Clinger said Mr Morris should confirm or deny under oath the words Ms Rowlands had attributed to him, or face a subpoena to testify. A spokesman for Orrin Hatch, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he was also considering summoning the former Clinton aide.

Mr Morris, the chief architect of Mr Clinton's political recovery and "family values" campaign, resigned just hours before the President's speech to the Democratic convention a week last Thursday after tabloid newspapers disclosed his affair with Ms Rowlands. Late last week the same newspapers revealed that he had also had a 15-year affair with a Texan woman by whom he had a six-year-old daughter.

The White House has been publicly solicitous of Mr Morris since his downfall. Mr Clinton praised his work. The President, Mrs Clinton and Al Gore, the Vice-President, have all telephoned him to commiserate, and the President told his aides that he did not want them to disparage Mr Morris in comments to the media. This strategy may reflect the White House's desire to put the whole episode behind it as quickly as possible, or a desire to keep Mr Morris sweet so he does not embarrass the President in his forthcoming book.

Mr Morris has intensely angered White House officials since his resignation by refusing to lie low and publicly claiming the credit for Mr Clinton's political resurrection over the past two years. "When it first happened... there was a decent amount of genuine sympathy," one official told yesterday's *Washington Post*. Now there was "a feeling of betrayal, a feeling that Morris was out for himself from the start."

Little Rock, Arkansas: Claims by Susan McDougal that prosecutors have harassed her to implicate Mr Clinton brought a sharp response from Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor. Mrs McDougal and her lawyer are "brazenly trying to deceive the public," he said in a statement. "Their continued attempts to mislead the public... are outrageous and unethical." (AP)



Mike Maccalupo and his wife, Gigi, of Surf City, North Carolina, walk through wreckage left by Hurricane Fran. Their home was spared

Hurricanes play havoc with Caribbean cruises

New York: Ocean liners are having their sailing schedules severely buffeted by the 1996 hurricane season (Quentin Letts writes). Voyages are being disrupted and ports switched.

As Hurricane Hortense brewed in the Caribbean yesterday, the fourth such storm of the season, passengers from a New York cruise ship described their nightmare last week

when their liner was caught in the 115mph winds of Hurricane Fran. The 680ft-long *Zenith*, a holiday liner cruising to Bermuda, was hit by 35ft waves and started to list badly in the storm. The 1,400 passengers were thrown from bunks and struck by flying objects. Injuries included broken legs, sprained ankles, cuts and bruises, with seasickness widespread.

People left their cabins to sleep in corridor floors on the main deck. *Zenith* survived, however, and limped into Bermuda with some passengers in wheelchairs and her hull dented.

Other cruise operators have not risked putting their vessels to sea in the Caribbean. Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines redirected one of its ships to the west coast of Florida. Yesterday

the death toll from Hurricane Fran was put at 22, and severe flooding remained a problem in parts of North Carolina and Virginia. The last whippers of the storm were blowing round the Great Lakes, and hurricane-watchers were monitoring Hortense, apparently heading towards Haiti.

Photograph, page 24

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Kevorkian thwarts police at deathbed

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S "Dr Death", the euthanasia campaigner Dr Jack Kevorkian, attended his 40th assisted suicide despite a deathbed raid by police.

Dr Kevorkian, 68, a retired pathologist who has long championed the right of the terminally ill to end their lives, was in a Michigan motel room with his patient when six policemen arrived at the door and demanded to know what was going on. They had heard that a suicide was about to take place.

The ill woman, Isabel Correa, dragged herself from her bed to give a news conference in which, from a wheelchair, she bitterly criticised the police for interrupting her final hours. She explained that her spinal illness left her in constant pain. "I know what I am doing," she said, adding that police had confiscated her rosary and some painkillers. "My privacy has been violated. I want to die. I am not depressed."

Hours later, to the frustration of the police, it was

announced that the gaunt Mrs Correa had achieved her goal. Her body was taken to a nearby hospital by Dr Kevorkian.

Dr Kevorkian called the police action "proof we've got Nazi stormtroopers and the Gestapo right here". Geoffrey Fieger, his lawyer, said: "Despite the efforts of those thugs, Isabel ended her pain today with the help of Dr Kevorkian. She is free from her suffering."

Holding Mrs Correa's purple sweater, he said that she had given it to him as a symbol just minutes before her death. "She wanted it to be a flag of freedom," said Mr Fieger, who has helped Dr Kevorkian to overcome numerous court actions by the Michigan authorities.

Richard Thompson, a local prosecutor, restated his determination to stop Dr Kevorkian. In spite of court defeats and an apparent lack of public support, he said: "It has always been my position that there is still a law against assisted suicide."

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AMERICAN ELECTION COUNTDOWN

THE RACE

THE US elections will take place on November 5 (Tim Hanes writes). With both major conventions past, both campaigns will be at full throttle. The electorate does not usually become fully engaged until mid-October. A set of three debates between the presidential candidates and one month and may prove conclusive.

President Clinton enters the home straight with a solid lead of ten to 15 points, according to most polls. However, the same surveys suggest the public has little enthusiasm for any of the contenders. Most observers expect the race to narrow in the next few weeks. Over the past seven outings, the average shift between early September and polling day has been eight points, mostly against the front-runner.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

THE presidency is not settled by a straight popular vote but through a device called the Electoral College (Tim Hanes writes). Each state has a number of votes in it equal to the total of its senators (always two) and members of the House of Representatives (varying by population). Seven states and the District of Columbia have the minimum of three votes; California has 54.

A candidate requires 270 of the 538 votes available to be elected. Were no man to

manage that (which last happened in 1824), the House of Representatives would choose the President. In every state bar two (Maine and Nebraska), the candidate who wins the most votes on November 5 is automatically awarded the entire College delegation.

Officially no one is elected President until the ballots of these 538 individuals are counted. The people con-

cerned will be handpicked supporters of the candidate from that state. They are not legally obliged to back their stated champion and there have been numerous examples of so-called "faithless electors" failing to do so. The last was 1988 when an elector from West Virginia endorsed Lloyd Bentsen, the senator for President and Michael Dukakis for Vice-President in an apparent

protest at the absurdity of the entire system. Candidates concentrate their time and resources in the few highly populated states that dominate the College. Victory in the 11 largest alone would produce the 270 votes needed. If a candidate won most of these narrowly but were beaten soundly elsewhere, then they could acquire an Electoral College majority and thus become President despite attaining fewer votes nationally than the "loser".

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

DESPITE numerous laws passed after the Watergate scandal to restrict the influence of money in US politics, access to ample cash remains a vital campaign resource and US elections rank as the most expensive in the world (Tim Hanes writes). Legally, both major candidates receive a grant from the taxpayer (\$62 million, or £40 million, this year) which, with an amount their party may raise (\$12 million in 1996), is the absolute maximum they may spend. This \$74 million represents only part of actual expenditure. Numerous loopholes mean that the national party, state parties, interest groups, corporations, and even candidates can find ways to funnel in money. By these nefarious routes, supporters of both major candidates will ensure an extra \$100-\$150 million enters the election.

THE CLINTON STRATEGY

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

EIGHT weeks tomorrow America will elect its next President, and White House officials are now so confident that Bill Clinton will win the last campaign of his political career that they are beginning to whisper the L-word — "landslide".

Mr Clinton is warning against complacency, but such optimism seems entirely warranted. The latest survey of individual state polls showed the President leading in 33 states with 408 Electoral College votes, 138 more than the 270 he requires for re-election, and the survey was completed before last month's Democratic convention boosted his figures further. Mr Clinton had double-digit leads in 25 of those states. Bob Dole had double-digit leads in just four states with 21 Electoral College votes.

It is an astonishing comeback by a President who was elected with just 43 per cent of the vote in 1992, suffered non-stop scandals and disasters throughout his first two years in office, and was universally written off after Newt Gingrich's Republicans seized control of Congress in 1994.

Mr Clinton is still not popular, but he has masterfully repositioned himself as a bulwark against the Republicans' perceived extremism while co-opting their best issues. He has also been greatly assisted

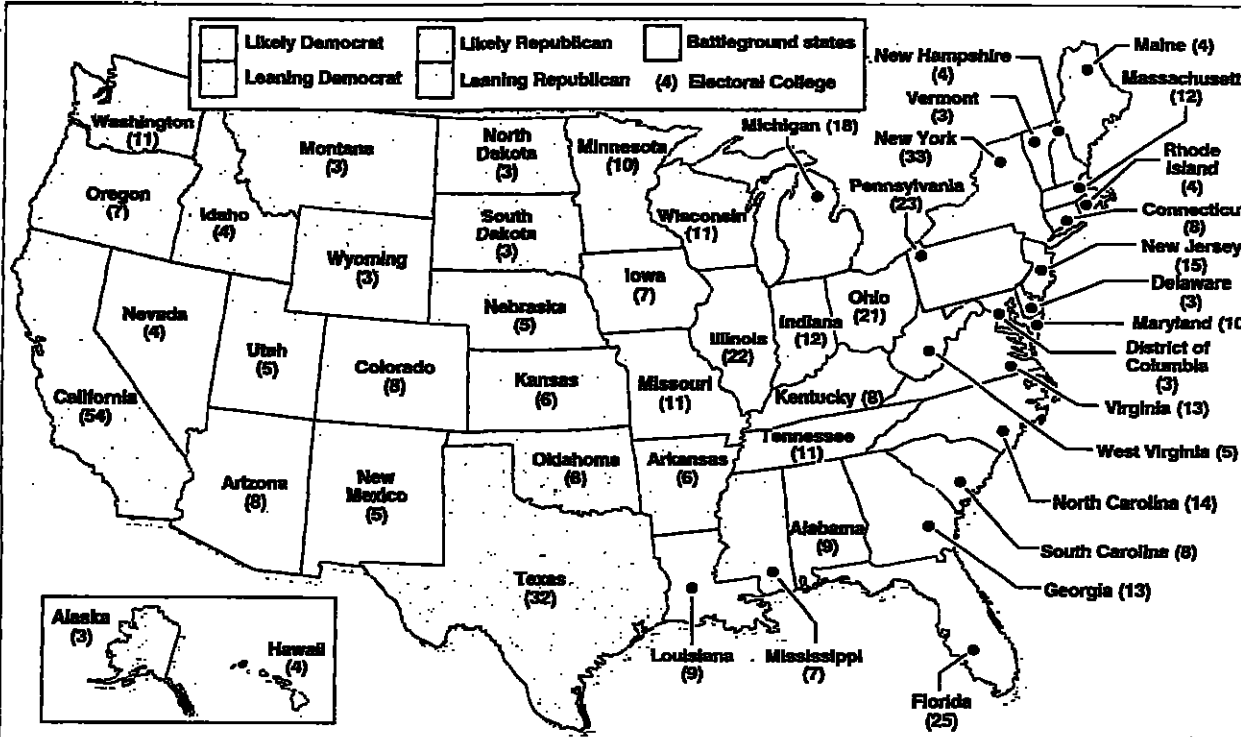


Clinton: huge lead

by the Republicans nominating one of the weakest presidential candidates in memory.

The President's goal as he enters the home stretch is simple — play it safe. He offers no great vision for his second term, only a list of relatively modest proposals. In 1992 he portrayed himself as a catalyst for radical change, but this year he argues that he has put the economy back on track and it would be madness to jeopardise that progress through the reckless tax cuts Mr Dole is proposing.

Leading article, page 21



BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE PEROT FACTOR

IF BOB DOLE'S prospects look bleak, those of Ross Perot and his new Reform Party look bleaker still.

In 1992 the maverick Texas billionaire won 19 million votes, helped to set the agenda, and arguably put Bill Clinton in the White House by splitting the Republican vote. This year he has yet to have any discernible impact.

In 1992 Mr Perot won 19 per cent of the vote, but the latest polls measure his support at 5 to 8 per cent. Then, he poured \$60 million (£38.5

million) of his personal fortune into his campaign, but this time he has accepted \$30 million in federal funds and so is limited to just \$50,000 of his own. He has yet to find anyone of stature to be his running-mate and it has yet to be decided whether he will be allowed to participate in the presidential debates given his single-digit poll support.

Dick Lamm, the former Colorado Governor who challenged him for the Reform Party's nomination, has accused him of abusing the party's slapdash nomination process and refused to endorse him. Mr Perot's negative ratings are sky-high. A *New York Times* poll last week showed just 11 per cent of respondents thought favourably of him and 60 per cent unfavourably.

His position could yet improve. He should soon be on the ballot in all 50 states. He has begun broadcasting 30-minute "infomercials", and still has a lot of money to spend in just eight weeks.



Perot: negative ratings

THE DOLE STRATEGY



Bob Dole has proved a pedestrian campaigner

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

LAST Friday epitomised Bob Dole's sinking fortunes. An incompetent aide arranged for him to campaign at a New Jersey factory that made inflatable life rafts. Mr Dole was unable to fulfil even that ill-advised engagement because his plane was grounded by Hurricane Fran.

That non-appearance capped another dismal week for the 73-year-old Republican. President Saddam Hussein's foray into Arbil gave President Clinton a priceless chance to stand tall and tough against the world's most celebrated bully. The only news Mr Dole generated was a seemingly desperate shake-up of his advisers.

Mr Dole's position is so dire that he must defy historical precedent to win what is the last campaign of his career. He trails by 14 to 20 points — and in virtually every demographic group

— and no presidential candidate has ever closed such a chasm this late on.

Instead of focusing on the half-dozen "battleground" states, Mr Dole is having to defend his own base against a rampaging President, and his resources are being stretched perilously thin. He has proved, to put it charitably, a pedestrian campaigner.

Mr Dole has opted for some drastic remedies. In June he dramatically quit the Senate to campaign full-time. Last month he selected the mercurial Jack Kemp as his running-mate, despite deep personal and political differences. He is betting everything on his other great surprise — his demand for a 15 per cent across-the-board cut in income taxes — but the electorate's response has been distinctly underwhelming.

The one issue on which Mr Clinton is vulnerable is that of "character", but it is a tough one for Mr Dole to exploit.



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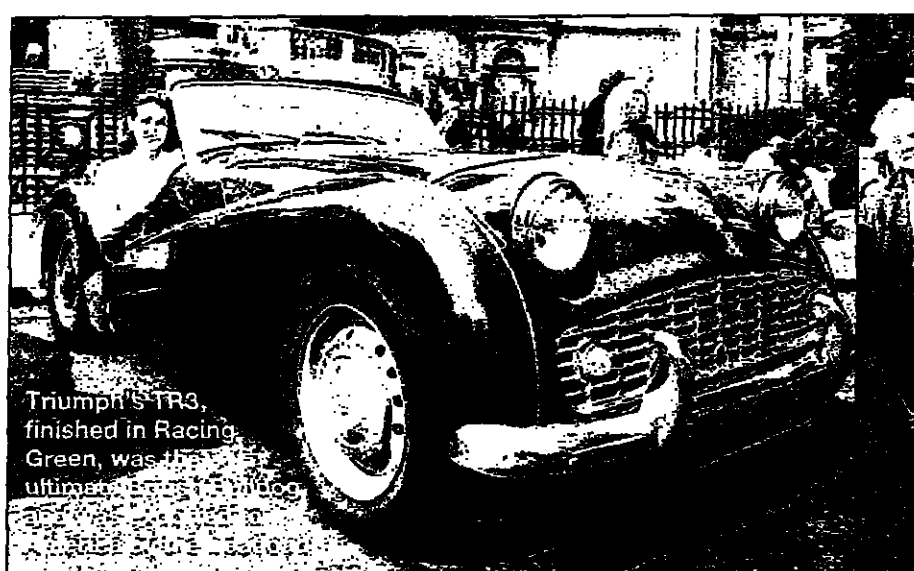
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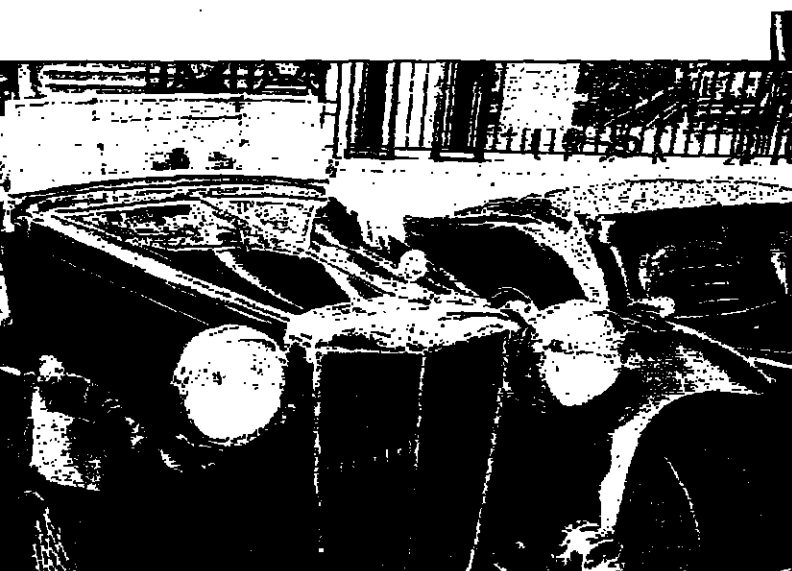
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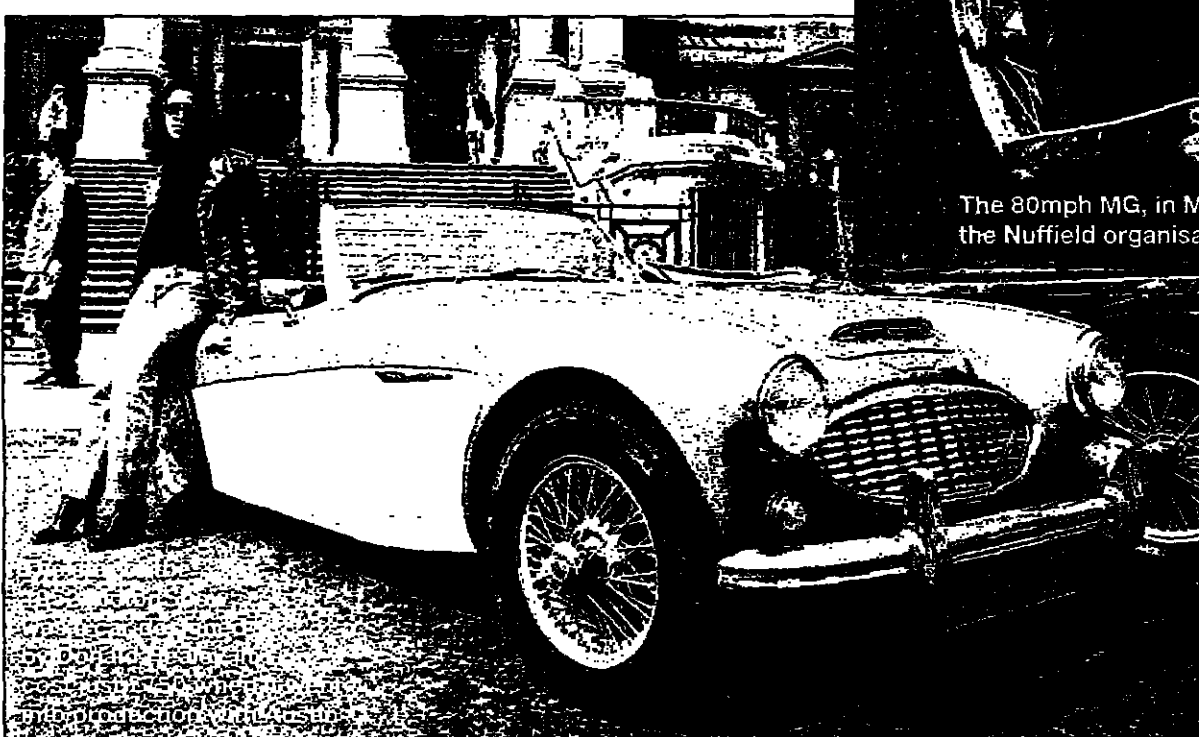
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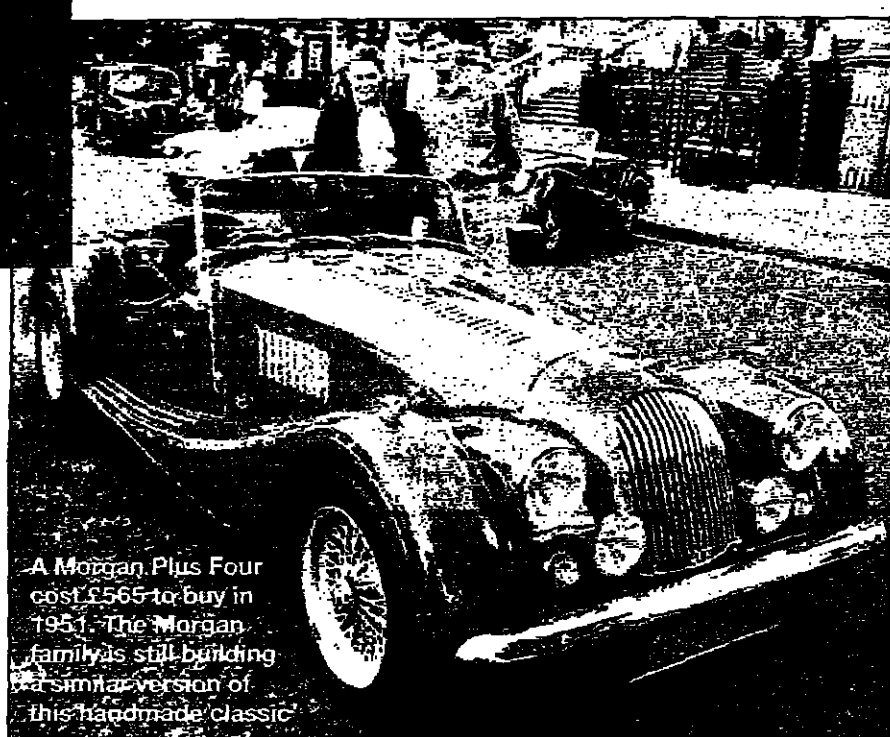
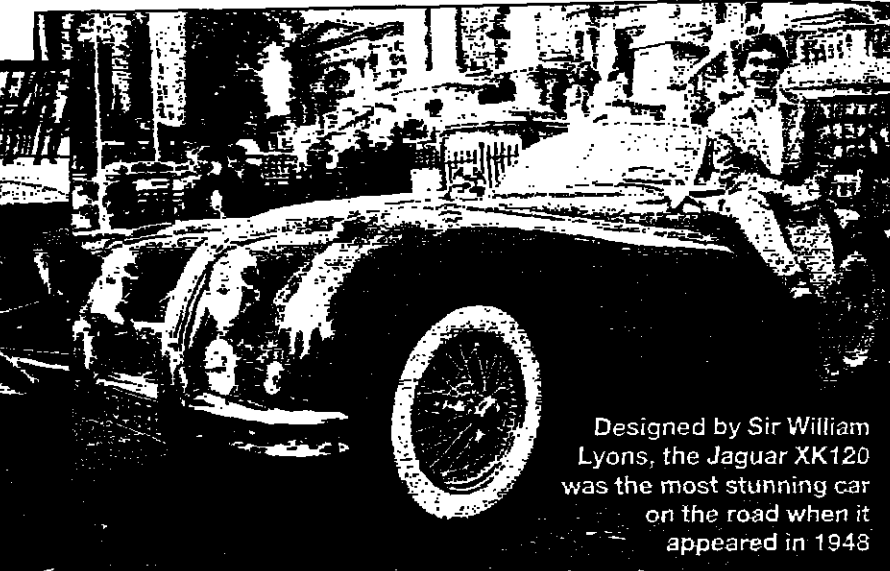
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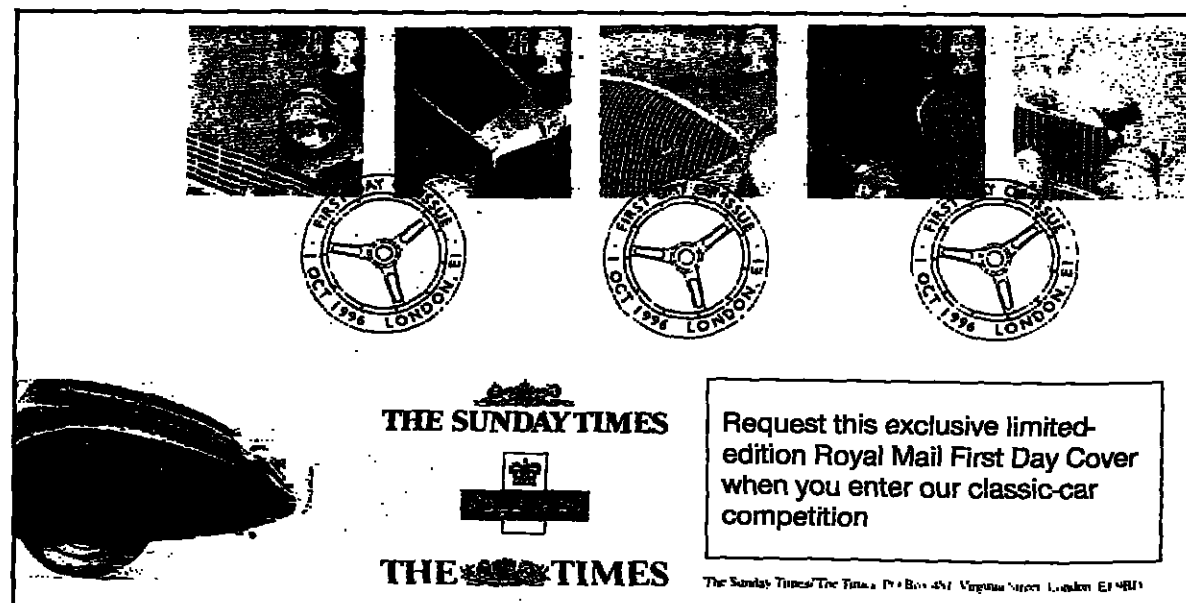
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GOLF

Montgomery hits new heights with low-level assault

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN CRANS-SUR-SIERRE

COLIN MONTGOMERIE was the irresistible force that eventually swept aside a seemingly invulnerable object, called Sam Torrance, with an avalanche of birdies to win the Canon European Masters for the first time yesterday.

Torrance led his fellow Scot by eight shots at the halfway stage and finished with two rounds of 68, three under par. It was not enough, for Montgomery played the best 36 holes of his career, producing rounds of 61 and 63 for a total of 124, 24 under par, that left Torrance four shots adrift in second place.

"It's an incredible score," Torrance said, "and I've nothing but admiration for him. I think he deserves to win the order of merit again. He's so consistent. He's a fabulous golfer."

Montgomery elevated his game to heights even he dared not dream of at the very place where he started his career. "This was my first professional tournament, in 1987, and I missed the cut," he recalled, "and wondered if I had made the right decision."

Twelve PGA European Tour victories and several million pounds later, including £127,950 here, the wisdom of his decision is not in doubt. The European No 1 for the past three years, he has moved ahead of Ian Woosnam at the top of the order of merit again and defends the Lancashire Trophy in Paris this week.

Having established a Tour record with his weekend total of 124, 18 under par, Montgomery's ambition is to play like that in a major championship. "I seem to relax more in Europe," Montgomery, 33, said, "and I have to think

about how I can bring this type of form to a major. If I do that, I can win one day."

On Saturday, when Montgomery had his tenth birdie of the day, at the 369-yard 14th, he and a horde of excited spectators thought the magical 59 was more than just a possibility, especially since the 15th is also a reachable par-five. Instead, the wind gusts and he parred his way

Scores 38

home, ending the day almost dejected after a 61, his lowest score. He was cheered that he was only a shot behind Torrance and could be regarded as a major threat rather than a minor irritant.

"He's like a rash," Torrance said and, at the 7th hole on the final round, Montgomery became positively contagious, moving into a lead that proved untreatable. The 7th, one of



Montgomery: No 1 again

the most picturesque spots on a scenic course, is a par-four of 301 yards, with tee and green elevated and a valley in between.

Torrance, who had just regained the lead with a birdie three at the 6th, pulled his driver left, duffed his second shot into a bunker and ended up with a bogey five. Montgomery drove the green for the fourth consecutive day and rolled in a 25-foot putt for an eagle two to move to 19 under par. "That changed the whole day," he said. "I went from one behind to two ahead and the atmosphere, everything, changed."

It was far from over, however, even though Montgomery moved to 22 under with three birdies in a row from the 13th.

Refusing to be demoralised, Torrance holed from 30 feet twice, for a birdie at the 12th and an eagle three at the 14th, to cut the lead to one. He followed Montgomery in from ten feet for a birdie at the 15th and Eimear, Montgomery's wife, expressed herself thankful that there were only four holes to go. "At least my nerves might last," she said.

Torrance's four-iron tee-shot at the 235-yard 16th might have made her wonder. It was dead on line, 12 feet short. Now the pressure was on Montgomery. He also hit a four-iron to 25 feet, rolled home the putt. Torrance missed and conceded afterwards: "That was the killer."

Montgomery put the spikes in with another birdie — his fifth on the trot — at the 17th and, when Torrance missed a two-footer to drop a shot, everyone knew it was all over.

Johnson's victory brings end to long barren spell

BY MEL WEBB

TRISH JOHNSON slipped effortlessly into form less than two weeks before her fourth appearance in the Solheim Cup, when she won the Marks & Spencer European Open at Hanbury Manor, Hertfordshire, yesterday with a total of 274, 14 under par.

Johnson's commanding performance ended a spell of three and a half years without a victory, the longest barren sequence of her nine-year professional career.

She won eight times in

Europe in five seasons after she turned to the paid ranks in 1987 and claimed two more titles in the United States in 1993, but although winless since, she had finished second three times this season before taking this one extra stride into the winner's circle.

With Laura Davies, the overwhelming favourite to pick up the winner's £15,000 cheque, retreating on Saturday and almost disappearing from sight altogether on this final day, the way was left for

Johnson, 30, to follow a third-round 64 with a solid, if unspectacular, 70.

Anne-Marie Knight, of Australia, in her first season as a professional, had the best finish of her short career by finishing second, five shots behind, alongside Pernilla Sterner, of Sweden, and one ahead of Federica Dassu, of Italy. Dale Reid, the third Solheim Cup player in the field, was fifth on seven under par.

The closing stages of the tournament brought nothing but frustration for Davies, who needed a top-two finish to overtake the absent Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, at the top of the European money-list. A 76 on Saturday that left her bewildered and furious with herself in equal measure was followed by a 75 yesterday.

The world No 1 was one under par after nine holes, but then dropped five shots in six holes coming home to finish ten shots off the pace. "I should have shot six under on the front nine, but I missed six putts inside three feet," Davies said. "I tried on every shot, but nothing would go in. It's a bit heartbreaking when you miss six short ones in ten holes."

Johnson, meanwhile, was the model of consistency. She started the day four strokes ahead, but the deficit was cut to two at the 1st, when she dropped a shot and Dassu, one of her playing partners and her closest pursuer, had a birdie.

Dassu also birdied the par-five 2nd, but Johnson edged three clear again when she hit a seven-iron to 15 feet and sank the putt. By the turn, the gap had been restored to four, and although Sterner made something of a run from further down the field, Johnson always had too much in reserve to capitulate.

She birdied the 10th hole from ten feet, and although she dropped a shot at the 12th after driving into a bunker, a chip-in from 25 feet on the 17th for her fourth birdie left her savouring the taste of victory again.

"It's a great feeling to win after all that time," Johnson said. "Nobody really made a run early on, which helped, so I felt fairly in control round the turn. I think most of my wins have been by four shots or more, so I've never been tested by a five-footer to win."

So composed did she look on the final stretch, she would probably have made it, anyway.



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King, on Star Appeal, heading for her first victory in the Burghley Horse Trials

EQUESTRIANISM

King continues to erase her Olympic blues

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING'S formidable list of post-Olympic successes continued yesterday when she and Star Appeal, owned jointly by her husband, David, and her sponsors, Frizzell, won the Burghley Pedigree Chum Horse Trials after leading from the start.

The 35-year-old Devonian, who has won both the British and Scottish championships since returning empty-handed from Atlanta, incurred just five faults in the rain-soaked showjumping class yesterday to win the most difficult Burghley of recent years by a 7.6-point margin.

The success, her first at Burghley, has restored the credibility of Star Appeal at this level after a series of mishaps. The 11-year-old gelding, who now replaces her Olympic contender King William as King's top horse, won Punctestown last year but then fell at the first fence at this year's Badminton championship and then ran away with King at Bramham in June.

Only 1.6 points divided the next three riders. Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, the winner last year, held on to second place after a superbly ridden round on Cartoon 11, a horse he describes as "genuine but not overvalued". Two exciting young horses filled the next two places. Matt Ryan, the 1992 Olympic champion from Australia, was third on Hinnegar and the only rider to finish on his dressage score.

Britain's Pippa Funnell finally laid her four-star ghost to rest when she and Sarah Jewson's nine-year-old Bits and Pieces rose to fourth place

after following up their outstanding performance on Saturday with a stylish clear showjumping round.

Mark Todd, whose copy-book cross-country round on his Badminton winner Bertie Blunt lifted him to third place overnight, had to withdraw the 12-year-old gelding, because of lameness, yesterday morning. In what was a gloomy weekend for New Zealand's dual Olympic gold medal winner his first ride, Kingarrie, failed the final horse inspection, the only horse to do so — although six were not presented.

Mark Phillips's big cross-country course rode well, with 36 out of the 70 starters having no jumping faults and six riders finishing clear within the time. The Trout Hatchery, Fence 12, proved the most influential fence on the course. Its victims included the United States' Olympic team silver medal winner, Bruce Davidson on Squelch, who was "jumped off", and Britain's Leslie Law on Capitano who fell and retired.

Phillips thought familiarity may have bred contempt. "Last year, when it was a new fence, riders approached it at a steeper pace and put in three strides in the water," he said. "This year many of them came in very fast and attempted to do it in two strides." Phillips, as trainer of the United States team, will have to stand down as course designer next year because Burghley is hosting the Open European Championships. He will swap with Mike Tucker, the designer of Bramham.

Results, page 38

TENNIS: AGASSI MAKES ABJECT SURRENDER TO FELLOW AMERICAN IN US OPEN SEMI-FINAL

Ivanisevic plays on his own weakness

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN NEW YORK

HAD he beaten a contemporary at school, we would have said, in the vernacular, that he was crackers. With an immense talent capable of winning major titles, Goran Ivanisevic persistently continues to play the wrong shot on key points or, worse, to select the wrong strategy.

In the US Open men's singles semi-finals, he was defeated 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 by Pete Sampras, the defending champion, who less than 48 hours previously had tottered through his fifth set tie-break against Alex Corretja on the brink of dehydrated collapse. Sampras, in my opinion, was there for the taking if Ivanisevic could keep him on court again for three hours or more. Instead, Ivanisevic characteristically chose to impersonate Hurricane Fran, looking for swift, thunderbolt victory, and predictably blew out in a little over two hours.

The surprise elimination in the other semi-final of Andre Agassi by Michael Chang, the second seed, was achieved in a manner inexplicable in the light of Agassi's earlier destruction of Thomas Muster, the third seed. Agassi either could not or would not find the intensity required to challenge Chang's ferocious accuracy. Cynics suggested that Agassi's friends had bet on Chang. Agassi himself could find no plausible reason afterwards for his anaemic and seemingly gutless display.

Ivanisevic is anything but gutless. He is just confused. He has an intense passion to succeed, to be Croatia's most triumphant sportsman, never mind that he has already earned more than \$8 million in prize-money in seven years

on the circuit. He is conscious that, as a former No 3 among world juniors who reached the Australian Open quarter-final in his first grand-slam event in 1989, he should by now have more to his credit than being twice runner-up and twice semi-finalist at Wimbledon.

Sampras maybe put his finger on the problem when he said afterwards that "you are not sure what he is going to do". Nor is Ivanisevic. Or rather, perhaps, he is never sure what he ought to do. His

game-plan is basic: serve at 130mph, and attempt to hit service returns... or groundstroke forehands, at approximately the same speed. Repeatedly he is in anguish when this does not work.

"I gave him too many presents today," Ivanisevic said. "If you give him presents, you are gone." He was asked if he had thought Sampras was getting tired. "He was," he said. "He was real down after the third set.

Then I should have jumped straight on him."

Jumping on him, however, does not mean merely returning service well, and betting winners. It means keeping the ball in play and making Sampras ever more tired. Ivanisevic had the evidence. In saving the third of four match points held by Sampras — who had double-faulted on the second — during the 20-point tie-break that might have been the turning point of the match, Ivanisevic patiently sustained

Child's play spoils Hingis

FROM DAVID MILLER

THERE are two aspects of the performance of Martina Hingis, when losing to Steffi Graf in the semi-final of the US Open women's singles, that are attributable to her age. One is acceptable, the other less so.

There can be no doubt that, when going down 7-5, 6-3, Hingis, who will not be 16 until November, experienced fatigue by the end of the long first set, in which she unusually had five set points. Her physical immaturity left her at a disadvantage against the hugely-experienced Graf and, on this count, everyone present will have felt sympathy for her.

On the other hand, Hingis's temperamental instability, which is so regularly evident in almost all her matches, once more played a possible part in her defeat. In the first two games of the second set, irritated by the waste of those five points, which might have led her towards her first grand-slam final, she was pouting, slapping loose balls casually about the court, and

generally behaving in a child-like manner.

It is said that she will grow up, that she must be given time to learn to behave other than as a child. This tolerance is unhelpful to her in the long term. She seems to think this type of behaviour does not matter, and said so. "Sometimes you are almost at the end of your power, you have no energy anymore, so you have to take a little time [time-wasting]," she said. "It doesn't matter if you get a warning or something."

The umpire had warned her at 5-5, when she had just wasted a 40-0 lead on Graf's service, and another set point on advantage, and had been slamming her racket around the place. These excesses can only undermine her game.

By the time she had gathered herself, Graf was 2-0 ahead in the second set, having gained the opening break that was all she would need to take the match. Although Graf's game, riddled with unforced errors in the first set, now became more

measured and her service improved, with some 102mph aces when taking a 4-2 lead, Hingis stayed competitive until the end of what had been a fine match.

The eye, balance, timing, line of shot, sense of the court and composure of Hingis are exceptional. She is going to be a phenomenal player and it would be a pity if she were to be undermined by failure to control a temperamental fault during these still formative years.

Because she had reached the semi-final stage of the singles and both doubles events, Hingis was more tired than she would have expected at the end of two weeks, but she said she would continue to play doubles as it helped to develop her volleying skills.

Graf was full of praise for her young opponent. "She made some incredible down-the-lines," Graf said, "and the way she played today I am sure I wasn't as consistent as she was at that age. Maybe I was taking more risks, but she was really solid."

RUGBY LEAGUE: KEIGHLEY PAY PENALTY FOR INDISCIPLINED DISPLAY IN DIVISIONAL FINAL

Naylor's brace of tries seals Salford double

Keighley Cougars 6
Salford Reds 19

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN CROSSING the road to Old Trafford to complete their double, Salford Reds collected their first winning cheque — a welcome, if paltry, £15,000 for the Stones Divisional Premiership.

As well as prize-money, Salford also missed out on a trophy for winning the first division last month: the old one they won in the century championship had to suffice. Promotion to the Super

League was their only tangible reward.

Yesterday, though, they did pick up some silverware and, although their cup hardly overflowed with riches, it represented Salford's best season for five years. The fact that they were well below their best all summer did not matter; a promising future awaits.

Keighley, the beaten holders, rightly felt aggrieved that Steve Hampson, the Salford full back, when they were only 8-6 down, was not sent off midway through the second half for what looked a deliberate trip. Hampson went in feet first on Powell, an automatic

sending-off offence, but somehow he escaped with being placed on report.

If Hampson had gone, it might have been different. Instead, Milner was repelled at one end and Salford turned the corner at the other, with the first of two tries by Naylor. The centre burst on to Edwards' inside pass. "Happy Days" belted out over the Tannoy and Keighley's goose was cooked.

Keighley's own indiscipline cost them dear when they were leading by a penalty from Irving and a solo try by Cantillon, the acting half back. Powell was sin-binned for a

technical offence. Blakeley slotted a simple penalty and Salford never looked back after Blakeley's subsequent own converted try.

For Phil Larder, the outgoing Keighley coach, it was a disappointing note on which to finish. His side competed better than in the two league defeats by Salford. Important, though, they lacked firepower, and the Salford forwards, especially Eccles, a deserved man of the match, punched holes in the defence.

Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, watched the entire proceedings leaning on a gate post, from knocking Wigan

out of the Challenge Cup to winning the first division and now the divisional premiership, he has casually gone about his business. No one doubts, however, that he is a ruthless competitor and it will be good to see him in the Super League next year.

SCORES: Keighley, 6; Salford, 19. Goals: Naylor (2), Blakeley, Eccles, Blakeley (3). KEIGHLEY COUGARS: K. Dixon, S. Wray, M. Milner, S. Irving, J. Cantillon, D. Powell, C. Robertson, S. Parsons, P. Carriford, S. Hall, D. Flacey, S. Whitburn, M. Wood, S. Suggs, L. Tawell, G. Dooney, J. Ramsdale, D. Larder. SALFORD REDS: S. Hampson, F. Sini, S. Naylor, M. McIlroy, D. Rogers, S. Blakeley, M. Lee, I. Eccles, P. Edwards, C. Eccles, P. Forster, L. Saville, S. Parsons, S. Subbitt, J. Watson, S. Martin, A. Burgess, C. Randall, P. Roberts, S. Carrivage (Wichard).

FOOTBALL: FAILURE TO COMPETE WITH BIG SPENDERS LEAVES FRANCIS WITH LITTLE IN RESERVE

Keegan sets the benchmark for Tottenham

NEVER mind the dog that did not bark in the night. What about the clubs that did not buy in the summer? North London clubs especially. Arsenal woke up only at the very last moment. And, for all Alan Sugar's supposed millions, Tottenham Hotspur's only purchase of note was the Danish midfielder player, Allan Nielsen.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, was pleased with Nielsen's performance in the 2-1 defeat by Newcastle United at White Hart Lane on Saturday. "I liked what I saw. He had four attempts at goal. He tried to lob the goalkeeper [catastrophically, it should be said] and had a good shot saved. He's not afraid to tackle or be tackled."

Competent and capable enough, Nielsen is hardly a Mackay, a John White or a Blanchflower. Nor is he the creative midfielder player Tottenham still so badly need.

Shed a tear for Tottenham, on account of all those injuries? The cruel loss of Gary Mabbutt, Teddy Sheringham's injury, the fact that Chris Armstrong had to be severely strapped up, while Darren Anderton still has problems with his groin? The temptation is easily avoided.

Big clubs these days do not have to go as far as AC Milan, Internazionale or Juventus, buying almost anything that moves, or moves well, but strength in depth is essential and Tottenham have not got it. Besides Nielsen's miss, the ever erratic Rosenthal chose badly late in the game and should have shot rather than pass to Nielsen when he had a clear chance on his stronger left foot.

In the end, with Tottenham pressing desperately for the equaliser and increasingly open to counter-attacks, it was Ian Walker's goalkeeping that kept them afloat.

Far more confident and commanding with crosses than he was in midweek against Wimbledon, Walker won the admiration of Kevin

BRIAN GLANVILLE



At White Hart Lane

Keegan, the Newcastle manager: "Ian Walker was just outstanding for them. In the second half, he made three saves he wasn't entitled to make."

Walker did wonderfully well to thwart Peter Beardsley, clean through after a clever combination with Alan Shearer. Walker rushed out to dive and block the ball, which spun up to bounce off the crossbar.

In the last minute, when Beardsley, by this time running riot, released Clark, Walker turned that powerful shot aside, too.

The longer the game went on, the better Beardsley played. "I'd think apart from myself," Keegan said, joking.



Nielsen: competent

ly, "he's the finest player in the club. I wouldn't say it was a mistake to leave him out early on, I told him we wanted to try things, but we needed his leadership, we needed his inspiration."

Tottenham took the lead after 28 minutes when the energetic Sinton beat a casual Watson, heading the ball down, racing up the left, finally crossing for the 18-year-old Rory Allen to score on the far post.

At that point one was wondering whether the hugely expensive strike force of Shearer and Les Ferdinand was not duplicating rather than asserting itself. But, eight minutes after the Tottenham goal, when Ginola for once hit a prompt left-foot cross rather than a delayed inswinger, Newcastle were level. Walker blocked the resulting deflection, and a shot by Shearer, but Ferdinand got a foot to the ball and in it went.

Missing a good opportunity set up for him by Lee and Shearer early in the second half, Ferdinand atoned on the hour. Smooth combination down the right by Lee and Shearer ended with Lee's cross and a thundering first-time right-footer by Ferdinand.

Keegan was pleased with his spearhead. "I do genuinely think the two will get better and better and, as I said, I thought there were signs today."

No room, then, for Faustino Asprilla, scorer of a hat-trick the previous weekend when Colombia thrashed Chile 4-1 in a World Cup qualifying match.

With his very different, India-rubber style, his long-legged elegance, you might think Asprilla could complement either Shearer or Ferdinand better than they do one another. And it is no surprise that Francis envies Newcastle's resources. "If you look at their subs' bench, it's absolutely frightening," he said.

"There must have been £30 million on the bench. One goes off and you think, great;



Armstrong, left, the Tottenham forward, tangles with Watson at White Hart Lane

and then Asprilla comes on." Except that this time, just as when Parma won the European Cup Winners' Cup at Wembley, he did not.

Newcastle's defence still is not the equal of their attack. Players tend strangely to get in one another's way or to go absent, as they did when Nielsen had that glorious

chance only to bang it hastily over the bar.

Generous as always in victory, Keegan admitted that Tottenham's team was not the one Francis would ideally have liked to put out.

For his part, Francis said: "That was the best we've played over 90 minutes this season. Certainly we missed

Teddy Sheringham, but anybody would." Especially if there was not an Asprilla on the bench.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) 1 Walker — C. Wilson, D. Campbell, S. Campbell, D. Anderson (sub: R. Fox, 77min), D. Howells, A. Nielsen, A. Sinton — C. Armstrong, R. Allen (sub: R. Rosenthal, 77). **NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2)** P. Shearer — R. Lee, L. Clark, P. Beardsley, D. Ginola — L. Ferdinand, A. Shearer. **Referee:** P. Dunlin.

Learning to live with being a marked man

STEVE McMANAMAN



On how life has changed since Euro 96

THREE points, and the winning goal, so it was not a bad weekend for me. But against Southampton it was clear that they were determined to continue the trend that has already set in at Anfield this season. They came to defend, to frustrate us, and that seemed their only ambition.

Most teams who come to our place seem to adopt those tactics, so it should not have been a surprise. But it was, if only because Graeme Souness has never been a manager to do that sort of thing. In the first half at least, they were not interested in playing at all, and that is not his style.

Sunderland did it too, but it is something we will have to get used to — and me in particular. One of the features of our games this season has been the way in which I have been singled out for some tight man-to-man marking. It even happened in our away game at Coventry City, and against the Saints, Neil Maddison got so close that I could have jogged off the pitch and he would have followed.

It can be a bit strange, having people pestering me all over the pitch, definitely frustrating, but it is a fact of life now. I have been singled out because other teams seem to think that, if they can stop me, they stop Liverpool. It is a compliment, isn't it?

I am at this stage where I am regarded as one of the main threats, and I have to deal with man-to-man marking. It is a question of attitude and temperament. You have to regard it as a direct contest with your marker, try to take him to areas where he might be vulnerable.

I remember the first time it happened, against Queens Park Rangers a couple of years ago, when Rufus Brevett shadowed me everywhere. I swear he was in the bath afterwards. There is a story that Paul Ince was sold by Manchester United because I created a couple of goals when he was marking me. Fergie [Alex Ferguson] went ballistic at him in the dressing-room, but I reckon that was a plot by Ince — a big mate by the way — considering just how well he has done out of it. It does not

bother me, although I was a bit nervous when Vinnie Jones followed me against Wimbledon last season — I made sure I did not stand behind him!

I am not being arrogant, but it shows I have arrived. During the European championship I was singled out as England's danger man, which was strange. To have all these stars you are a bit in awe of saying good things about you is a difficult concept. Even Pelé said I was England's best player. I got a bit of stick over that from my mates.

It is useful for me, this man-marking, because as I say, it is the next stage in my career. It definitely helps me to cope at international level, and in Europe as well. We have got a game this week against MyPa 47, of Finland, and I know I will get the same treatment. It is something I think English teams have got to cope with if we are going to do better in Europe.

Tactically, I think they [European teams] are more disciplined than us. English teams are maybe a bit too attack-minded. In Italy you rarely see the all-out assaults of the English game, and the Germans won the European championship, not because they were technically the best, but because they were superbly organised. It is changing though, as Euro 96 showed, and my confident (ish) prediction is that there will be English success in Europe this season.

Reading rule the roost over rivals

Reading 2
Oxford United 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT BARELY rates in the same class as those great Mersey-side or Manchester derbies, but, when Reading play Oxford United, it still generates a good deal of discussion in the pubs and clubs as to who should hold local bragging rights. At Elm Park yesterday, Reading drew first blood in a mostly bland, occasionally watchable and sometimes niggly Nationwide League first division encounter.

Meeting in the League for the first time since 1983, when Robert Maxwell provoked the hatred of thousands by trying to merge the clubs into Thames Valley Royals, neither side managed to suggest that Berkshire or Oxfordshire will have a representative in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Perhaps it was because of the frenetic pace and underlying tension: perhaps it was the strange kick-off time of 1pm. Most probably, it was because the teams were simply not good enough to produce a spectacle fit for viewing from either outdoor seats or front-row armchairs.

At least the goals were of a decent calibre: one in each half and nicely executed by Martin Williams and Trevor Morley. The first, after 15 minutes, was neatly constructed by Jimmy Quinn, Reading's other joint player-manager, was at least able to glean some satisfaction. "If we carry on like that, we will win more than we lose," he said. "We showed a lot of spirit."

Spirit may be enough to stay in the first division but, having reached the Wembley play-off final only two seasons ago, Reading know rather more is required if they are to return.

READING (4-4-2): S. Bibbo — A. Sinton, J. Hopkins, D. Wodwoy, P. Bostin — M. Williams (sub: M. Meekler, 65min), M. Gooding (sub: D. Cusker, 65), P. Holman, M. Gibbs — L. Morgan, J. Morley (sub: J. Quinn, 90). **OXFORD UNITED (4-4-1-1):** P. Whitehead — J. Robinson, M. Elliott, P. Cadden, M. Ford — J. Beuchamp (sub: M. Ashridge, 70), M. Gray, D. Smith (sub: M. Murphy, 45), S. Massey (sub: M. Angel, 45) — R. Ford — P. Moody.

Referee: J. Kirby (sub: B. Price, 45)



Morley: second goal

tie against Bury, with Reading losing 2-0, because of torrential rain. Reading won the replay. Yesterday, he was hit on the nose by a misdirected pass from Hopkins and then had to retire hurt at half-time with an Achilles tendon problem. "I've had flood, fire and now this," he said ruefully.

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Wigan willing to spend to emulate their big brother

Mark Hodgkinson
on a football club
trying to end a rugby
league monopoly

GLAMOUR and Wigan are two words that seldom appear in the same sentence. Two Georges — Forsythe and Orwell — have brought Wigan some renown but, otherwise, until now, the town's sporting grandeur has belonged exclusively to the thick-set chaps in red and white who play with a funny-shaped ball.

Finally, and with perfect timing as the rugby league club begins to falter somewhat, Wigan Athletic are in the ascendancy. They are top of the third division, their squad cost a cool £600,000, and they have players from exotic locations like Valencia, Ontario and Zaragoza.

If we are talking glamour, then by Nationwide League standards, Wigan Athletic are Peter Stringfellow and a Porsche full of super-models. Inevitably, Wigan have a benefactor and he is another kindly uncle with Blackburn connections. Dave Whelan, a player with Blackburn Rovers in the 1950s, has diverted much of his wealth as a sports shop entrepreneur into his beloved home town club.

Most notably, he has brought three Spaniards to Wigan — Isidro Diaz, Jesus Seba and Roberto Martinez — of whom only the latter habitually makes the team. He has put his name to six-figure

cheques to acquire Kevin Sharp from Leeds United, David Lowe from Leicester City and Graeme Jones from Doncaster Rovers — a club record signing at £150,000.

While finance has been provided to assemble a fine team, Wigan's Springfield Park ground has largely been left in a shabby state. Supporters of Scunthorpe United had to walk through weed-strewn crofts and past graffiti before standing on open terracing fringed by a hill behind the goal. The environs were complemented by their team's performance.

Throughout the game, Scunthorpe had more of the ball, but their passes landed at the elbows and knees of col-leagues, while Wigan played it intelligently to feet. Wigan also had Graeme and Graham Jones and Lancashire respectively, two strikers with poise and accuracy.

The first goal came after 30 minutes, when Jones controlled a pass on the edge of the Scunthorpe penalty area,

prudently shifted his balance, and curled it past Samways. He then became provider, placing a pass delicately into the stride of Lancashire, who slotted it meticulously into the Scunthorpe net. Victory was ensured when Jones headed to Lowe and he stroked it into Lancashire's path for his second of the game.

Scunthorpe, all honourable graft and touches of sporadic skill from Francis and Eyre, had earlier lost their captain and defensive king pin, Alan Knill, with a leg injury. No fewer than seven people helped to carry him from the pitch.

John Deehan, the Wigan manager, afterwards singled out the contribution of the game's most accomplished player, Graeme Jones. "I can compare Graeme with a raw Alan Shearer, and that might not be too high a compliment. A few eyebrows were raised when we spent £150,000 within our own division, but Graeme is already proving we haven't frittered the chairman's money away," he said.

WIGAN ATHLETIC (4-3-3): Butler — R. Naylor, J. Hendrie, C. Goodall, G. Jackson — D. Lowe, J. Martinez, W. Bagnall (sub: J. Seba, 65min) — G. Jones (sub: S. Whitaker, 80), G. Lancashire, J. Naylor. **SCUNTHORPE UNITED (5-3-2):** M. Samways — C. Hope, M. Sinton, A. Knill (sub: S. Houston, 20), R. Bradley, P. Wilson — P. Clarkson, D. D'Ama, M. Quinn — J. Francis, J. Eyre.

Referee: A. Bates.

Webb's attacking policy paying early dividends

Chesterfield 0
Brentford 2

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

EARLY days, as David Webb, their manager, admits, but Brentford have that look about them. Uncompromising central defenders, pacey forwards with an eye for goal, the odd slice of luck when it matters; and an enterprising approach — home and away.

Chesterfield will probably not be the last of Brentford's opponents surprised to find four forwards coming at them on their own grounds. "They will if you tell them," Webb said on Saturday. Robert Taylor and Carl Asaba, in the traditional striking roles, were joined by Nicky Forster and Marcus Bent, attacking at speed from wide positions.

"They are all goalscorers," Webb said. "We played that way at the end of last season, and I decided to carry on this year." The success of the strategy brought Webb the Nationwide League second division manager-of-the-month award for August, and September has also started well.

After hooking their place in the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup at Plymouth in midweek, Brentford began confidently at Chesterfield.

Absorbing the home side's opening salvos, they broke swiftly, Asaba twice going close before Forster's right wing run forced a corner, cleared only as far as Bates, who volleyed in through a crowd of players.

They nearly extended their lead when Bent's measured shot from distance rebounded

low shot to his left at full stretch.

Weathering a further storm of crosses and corners, Brentford showed an impeccable sense of timing, breaking away in the last seconds of the first half to win a throw-in, nodded on for Forster to head home via a post.

The second half continued the theme of high balls from the home side and penetrating counter-attacks from the visitors. "It is a flexible system," Webb said. "When teams push you back, as Chesterfield did today, you have to try to hit them on the break; you can't take the gamble of leaving all four up. But there's no laboured build-up; we have a bit of pace, and a bit of football about us. I think there's more to come."

Unbeaten and top of the division, yet with virtually the same squad that finished fifteenth last season, "The lull before the storm," Webb said. **CHESTERFIELD (3-4-3):** W. Mercer — M. Williams, S. Dyer, L. Rogers (sub: A. Lomax, 75min) — J. Hewitt, J. Currie, P. Holland, M. Jones — C. Beaumont (sub: B. Davies, 45). **BRENTFORD (4-2-2-2):** K. Davidson — G. Hurdle, J. Bates, B. Ashby, J. Anderson — P. Smith, D. McShane (sub: C. Hutchings, 65) — N. Forster, M. Bent — R. Taylor, C. Asaba.

Referee: T. Lunt.

England stumble in Spanish heat

By SARAH FORDE

THE England women's football team's bid to qualify for the European championship finals next June hangs in the balance after they lost the first leg of their play-off against Spain 2-1 in Montilla yesterday. Their fate will now be decided in the second leg at Prenton Park, home of Tranmere Rovers — a much more hospitable environment for England than yesterday's venue — on September 29.

England arrived in southern Spain four days before the match to acclimatise in the hot, dry mountainous region, but the midday kick-off increased the extent of Spain's home advantage, with the

temperatures reaching 100F late in the second half. By that time, Spain were two up, having capitalised on England's defensive frailties for the first goal while the referee contributed to the second.

England had hardly had time to adjust to the dehydrating conditions before Spain seized the advantage in the seventh minute. A relatively innocuous cross was hoisted into the penalty area, the England defenders reacted slowly and failed to clear the danger and Maria Mar Prieto, the Spain centre forward, was allowed to loop her effort into the top corner.

Spain led ten minutes into the second half and again

England's defence will shoulder some of the blame but the referee, Tiziana Calamosca, from Italy, also played a part. Calamosca, whose over-enthusiastic use of her whistle had continually disrupted the game, while providing a welcome respite for the England players, for once lagged behind the action when England called to make a substitution while the ball was out of play. She failed to notice, Spain took a quick throw in and Mar Prieto was on hand to score with the England defenders scattered hopelessly out of position.

But England snatched a crucial away goal after 63 minutes when Debbie Bampton, the captain, re-

leased Tara Proctor on the right wing and her cross fell for Hope Powell to provide a clinical finish.

England almost equalised in the final minute when Rosa Serra, the Spain goalkeeper, who played for Arsenal Ladies last season, was penalised for wasting time. But Serra then made amends by saving Karen Burke's fierce free kick.

Ted Copeland, the England coach, remained optimistic about his team's chances of reaching next summer's finals. "We learnt a lot about the Spanish and that gives us great hope for the return leg," he said. "Spain defended well, but we created more chances and forced their keeper into some good saves."

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Lancashire aim to recruit Lillee as coach

MICHAEL
HENDERSON

At Lord's

its performance over the past 20 years in "proper" cricket

20 years in proper cricket. Far from relieving the frustrations of members after another barren season in the championship, their extraordinary success has added to it. Lancashire's glittering procession to Lord's on two fronts has alternated with some miserable cricket in the four-day game. The club committee has agreed to meet the members at Old Trafford on 20th June to discuss the year, or whether the job should be entrusted to Wasim Akram, whose leadership of Pakistan since he regained the position last year has been a revelation. Wasim, one argument goes, could galvanise the dressing-room and, by keeping him sweet, with a benefit season to play for, they would retain his interest throughout the season.

By then, Lillee, 47, might have agreed to join them. After Graham Gooch declined to become their coach last month, Geoff Ogden, the club's cricket chairman, said: "We feel we need a strong

Lancashire have supplied England with a coach and captain and, in the past year, six other players, yet the only teams that they have beaten this year are Durham and Sussex. In the past 20 years they have finished in the top five of the championship on only three occasions, and they have not won it outright since 1934.

Lillee, should he come, will inherit a team rich in talent. Chapple, captured by the Duke of Salva, in the Benson and Hedges Cup final last year, has grown up a lot since. He bowled splendidly in the NatWest semi-final, giving the Yorkshire batsmen nothing to hit at the death, and, presented with a capricious pitch at Lord's, he took

have played in both their double teams, is immensely popular, not least because he carries onto the field all that he has. But he appears an isolated figure at Old Trafford, an odd position for a captain to be in, cut off from the doings of a committee to which he is nominally attached.

That committee is still undecided whether Watkinson should carry on for a fourth



Chapple celebrates after dismissing Irani during his match-winning spell of six for 18 for Lancashire

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a baseball game. A player in a white uniform is sliding into a base, with his body angled towards the right. Two other players in white uniforms are positioned on either side of the sliding player, watching the play. The background is a dark, textured field.

Hegg pulls off a spectacular diving catch to remove Grayson, the Essex opening batsman, much to the delight of the slip fielders. Gallian, left, and Fairbrother

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (Essex won toss): Lancashire beat Essex by 129 runs

GRAHAM GOOCH is not a sentimental man but he does love Lord's with a passion, so if this was to be his last of many big days at the stately old place, he was entitled to a decent send-off. A few runs and a final acclamation from the pavilion seemed inevitable, an Essex victory the romantic ideal. Instead, the freakish events of the NatWest Trophy final on Saturday will cause Gooch nightmares into his retirement.

When Essex began their pursuit of a modest Lancashire score of 186 Gooch set himself to bat through the innings. After 20 overs it seemed he might succeed, though not at all in the imagined way. Gooch, indeed, was at risk of distinguishing himself by carrying his bat with an unbeaten ten.

This dubious achievement was denied him when he fell to Jason Gallian's first ball, leaving Essex a barely believable 33 for seven. Although what followed could laughably be termed a recovery — two men

did manage to make 11 — Essex were all out for 57 without even reaching the halfway mark of their 60 overs.

There was a stunned, bewildered silence among those who cared more for the cricket than for performing slurred versions of inane football songs. Essex, whose professional approach has never been doubted, had been bowled out for much the lowest total in any Lord's final and Lancashire had completed the double of Benson and Hedges and NatWest competitions in a manner they could scarcely credit.

In its way, this was as remarkable a final as there has been, a memorable as the 1993 game when Warwickshire successfully chased 322 to confound Sussex. It was, however, not remotely as fulfilling, leaving all but the committed Lancashire supporter with a feeling of being short-changed.

The pitch was unarguably poor. It is to be dug up shortly, and will not be mourned. Extravagant sideways movement of the sort bowlers of both sides extracted stifles the attraction of one-day cricket; inconsistent bounce is unacceptable in such a showpiece game. Ronnie Irani was bowled by a ball that struck his off stump less than halfway up and then spirited

cricketer, who had earlier bowled superbly against his native county, departed with a look of betrayal.

But if Mick Hunt, the MCC groundsman, slept poorly on Saturday night, his ears burning bright, he can be consoled that the majority of the wickets to fall, and the more consistent threat, came through an element beyond his control. The Duke balls — not, please note, the Readers which England, through nannyish regulations and a captain who kept losing the toss, had to play Pakistan — swung lavishly through the day.

It is, of course, simplistic to blame the conditions for everything. The bowlers still had to harness the help and, almost to a man, they did so with great skill. The game was so loaded against batting that there was a persuasive case for giving the man-of-the-match award to John Crawley, whose masterful 66 was 45 runs more than the next highest score.

Predictably, the award went instead to Glen Chapple, for whom the career graph has not risen to order since he made such a promising tour of India with England A two winters ago, aged 20. Still boyish, Chapple has had an unexceptional season in first-class cricket and he made an

unimpressive start to his spell with a long hop, which Irani cut contemptuously for four. Two balls later he bowled him with a grubber, and from then on it became the most spectacular spell of any cup final.

It was the twentieth over, Chapple's third, which terminated Essex's ambition. Darren Robinson, an opener by trade, was seduced into following an outswinger and edged it to slip. The next ball pitched on, and hit, off stump. It dismissed Robert Rollins, the last of Essex's serviceable batsmen, but it was such a sensational ball it would have dismissed anyone, even the moustachioed gentleman leaning inscrutably on his bat at the non-striker's end.

Just what was going through Gooch's head at that moment can only be imagined but when the first ball of the next over ended his vigil, the game was hurrying towards a rudely premature conclusion. Chapple finished it by taking two wickets in successive balls for the second time in the match and sprinting off with figures of six for 18, supplanting Joel Garner's six for 29 for Somerset in 1979 as the best in a September final.

Chapple immediately found himself being discussed as the answer to

England's bowling problems, which, of course, is fatuous. Selectional heads have frequently been turned by less, tour vacancies being secured by opportunism in this fixture, but the evidence of one limited-overs match in inequitable conditions ought not to be sufficient to promote Chapple's name when the selectors meet this evening. A second A tour, however, should certainly be his.

As often happens, the result owed as much to those with far less flattering figures. Uncertainty was created by Ian Austin, whose seven overs with the new ball cost only ten runs, and the three initial breaches were made by Peter Martin, none more significant than the dismissal of Nasser Hussain with a ball that left him late.

Lancashire became the first team since, ironically, Essex in 1986 to win this final after batting first. They cannot have believed they would do so at the change of innings but the perceived importance of the toss had clearly not fazed them at the start of the day. While Ladbrokes made dramatic shifts in their odds before a ball was bowled, Mike Watkinson, the Lancashire captain, calmly confirmed that he would have batted first anyway.

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

[illegible]

The Lancashire fielders rush to congratulate Gallian, whose first ball had just accounted for Gooch

NORTH
The Northwest Trophy.

NatWest
More than just a bank

National Measurement Reply (2)

RUGBY UNION: CHAMPIONS PUNISHED FOR HIGH PENALTY COUNT AND FAILURE TO CAPITALISE ON STAND-OFF HALF'S IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY

Catt breaks through but Bath falter

Leicester 28
Bath 25

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the England management, in a spirit of optimism, selects another training squad this week, in which position will Mike Catt be considered? He is the incumbent at full back but in this tempestuous season he is dominating the position of stand-off half, which many good judges believe to be his better long-term option.

Twice England have picked him in the No 10 jersey and twice they have hastily returned him to the back, worried by the inconsistency of his line kicking and his inability to organise a pattern of play for a very structured side. Set against that is his vision, his capacity to see and exploit space and, this season, his searing acceleration, which twice left the Leicester defence — admittedly leakier than last season — for dead.

Moreover, his play is maturing in a manner which suggests that he can now dominate a game tactically; perhaps it is for England to move their game towards the way Catt plays, rather than vice versa, and their international calendar gives them a perfect opportunity to do so. Not only that, Fran Cotton was at Welford Road on Saturday on British Isles business, and when he and his Lions colleagues sit down this week to plot the playing strate-

gy for the tour to South Africa next summer, Catt will surely feature in their thoughts.

Catt scored one try and made another for the 1996 champions, and the result only served to emphasise the essential unfairness of sport. Not that the Leicesterians who made up most of the 10,000 crowd will consider it anything more than the most poetic of justices — a penalty try in the dying moments robbed them of the Pilkington Cup at Twickenham last May and here a penalty try at the death gave them victory against their closest rivals.

It sent Bob Dwyer home to Australia yesterday a far happier man than defeat by Saracens the previous Saturday had left him. Dwyer, the Leicester coach, will spend the next month tying up loose business ends in Sydney but the Australian influence will not be lost during that time. Duncan Hall, capped 15 times at lock in the early 1980s and now regarded as one of the most promising coaches in Queensland, is to work in Leicester as a development officer and will help to coach the pack.

That same pack will hail Leicester out as they search for a more inventive midfield, but neither Dwyer nor Hall is impressed by the "game within a game" played out by the front row which is so prominent a feature of English rugby and never more than when Leicester meet Bath. They consider the game to be played by 15, not by three, and if the platform is destroyed by



Catt creates Bath's second try with a deft kick ahead. The stand-off half followed up to score himself. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

the scrum going up and down and round and round, they will change it.

In the meantime, Dwyer estimates that it will be another three months before he can establish the cornerstone of his new midfield and, whether it be Potter or Greenwood, Malone or Jones, Austin or the younger Liley, it may be another 18 months before the Leicester back division plays with the fluency and technique he seeks.

Healey, too, will be a significant influence at scrum half if he is allowed to run the game. The modern game demands

that the half back receives that chance and Healey is cocky enough to want it, such is his potential influence that Bath spent last week preparing their scrum to reduce his opportunities on the break. They expected Leicester to counter their wheeling formations and were surprised when they did not, or could not.

Thus Catt was the dominating character behind the scrum and if Bath's finishing had matched the power of breaks made by him, by de Glanville and Adebayo, they would not have been left in a

position to lose the game in injury time. "Catt is the best fly half in the country," John Hall, who does not equivocate, said. The Bath director of rugby was less than impressed with the penalty count against his team but he enjoyed its open passages of play. "Having seen the rugby we can play, I think we will destroy some sides," he added.

Yet the penalties ground them down. John Liley equalled the league record by kicking seven out of eight, four in the first half when Leicester led 12-6 and the Bath lineout struggled desperately

against Leicester's competence and Adams' inaccurate throwing. But, within four minutes, Nicol had crept over for the first try and Catt, breaking clean and chipping over the full back, held off Greenwood's pursuit.

Leicester resumed the lead, only to lose it once more when Bath carried play down the right and Catt fired out a wide pass to Guscott, whose angle carried him through a despairing defence with only eight minutes remaining. But the home forwards were not to be denied. They and Healey ran three penalties at Bath,

who failed to retreat quickly enough. Miller plunged for the line and Ugo's dive over the top gave Ed Morrison little choice than to award the penalty try which sent the Leicester players and crowd into delirious joy.

SCORERS: Leicester: Try: penalty try; Conversion: Liley. Penalty goals: Liley (7). Bath: Tries: Nicol, Catt, Guscott. Conversion: Callard (2). Penalty goals: Callard (2). LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Hadeney, S. Potter, V. Greenwood, R. Underwood, N. Malone, A. Healey, G. Rowntree, R. Cochrane, D. Garforth, J. Wells, M. Johnson, M. Poole, E. Alder, W. Johnson. BATH: J. Callard, J. Singh-Jones, P. de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Adebayo, M. Catt, A. Nicol, D. Hall, G. Adams, V. Ugo, R. Wessels, M. Haug, N. Redman, A. Robinson, E. Fayers. Referee: E. Mansson (Bristol).

Best puts damper on easy victory

West Hartlepool 21
Harlequins 41

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT IS difficult to judge how good the free-scoring Harlequins are. Last week, a virtual Gloucester second XV made a calculated surrender to them, and on Saturday a second-rate West Hartlepool contributed heavily to their own downfall. To put it mildly, the fixture list is benevolent to Harlequins: they avoid Bath and Leicester until December.

When the sum of their many talented parts adds up they will be some team. Until then, Dick Best, the club's director of rugby, will have strong words. "Better sides would have killed us," he said through clenched teeth. "We're demanding excellence and that was the furthest thing from it."

Best is hoping for better things from Harlequins' two short-term rugby league acquisitions, Robbie Paul and Gary Connolly, who make their debuts on Wednesday in the Anglo-Welsh Cup against Cardiff. "Robbie will set this game alight. He has the magic and that New Zealand will win. Gary is a strong, forthright runner. We're looking to learn from these guys and their professionalism," he said.

Not that 116 points in their opening two Courage Clubs Championship games are to be sniffed at. The fact that West presented them with so many scoring opportunities and Harlequins, not withstanding some pedantic refereeing, failed to curb their indiscipline, was less encouraging. Played two, won two, is what matters and Best is promising something altogether more coherent for the visit of London Irish on Saturday.

It is 17 months since West last won a league match. Nowadays, their side is as cosmopolitan as the one down the A19 at Middlesbrough Football Club. Rather than the samba *Land of My Fathers* is a more apt chorus for their seven Welsh hired hands, plus two New Zealanders, an Australian and a Scotsman. For a meagre 2,500 crowd, many faces were new but the story depressingly familiar.

The tight five for West is their biggest problem. Their scrum was Catherine-wheeled about the pitch. In the back row, Morgan's creative contribution and the powerful running of lions showed that all is not entirely gloom and two well-taken tries by Stephen John reflected the home side's dominance of the last quarter.

The glorious sight of Cabannes in full flow furnishing Mensah with the pick of the visitors' six tries, and of Whitelock, the West prop, face down and exhausted during his scrummaging lesson from Leonard typified a match of two Harlequins halves, one acceptable and the other sub-standard.

Challinor's two tries took him past 700 points in his six-year Harlequins career. On his debut, Luger, the beneficiary of West's efforts to open the game up in the second half, also touched down twice and Walshe claimed another. A thumping might have become a trouncing if Harlequins had kept their minds on the job and West not got their eye on the ball.

Will Carling answered the taunts of *West Edition*, a West Hartlepool fanzine, which queried whether the former England captain would turn out at Brierton Lane for the first time — speculating that the climate might be too cold for him — by landing 11 points in his new place-kicking role. Perhaps the editor forgot that Carling learnt his rugby further north, in Durham.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: S. John (2), Conversion: C. John. Penalty goals: C. John (2). Harlequins: Tries: Challinor (2), Luger (2), Mensah, Walshe. Conversion: Callard (4). Penalty goals: Carling (1). WEST HARTLEPOOL: M. Sale, M. Wood, J. Connolly, M. Ring, S. John, C. John, M. Richards, W. De Jonge, A. Peacock, P. Whellock, D. Mitchell, C. Murphy, K. Moseley, J. Jones, I. Morgan. Connolly replaced by J. Stabler (23rd min). Harlequins replaced by V. Hartland (20), Rodwell replaced by D. Patterson (76). HARLEQUINS: S. Staples, D. O'Leary, W. Carling, P. Mensah, D. Luger, P. Challinor, N. Walshe, J. Leonard, K. Wood, A. Mullins, R. Jenkins, A. Snow, G. Llewellyn, L. Cabannes, M. Watson. Watson replaced by B. Dawson (88). Referee: S. Pacey (Yorkshire).

Jones makes powerful case for Bristol's forward thinking



Jones: perfect signing

Bristol 38
Orrell 10

By PETER BILLS

RUGBY is back and the pleasure with it, for all its present problems off the field. The simple joys of this sport remain so enchanting, like chewing the cud in the golden late-afternoon sunshine at the Memorial Ground with two esteemed Welsh scrum halves of years gone by.

We expressed mutual sadness at the loss this week of a great friend, Clem Thomas, that grand man of Welsh rugby. But once the conversa-

tion had turned to Bristol, Clive Rowlands — D.C.T. Rowlands of Pontypool and Wales circa 1963-65 — and Robert Jones, of Swansea and Wales from 1986 until almost present times, began to lick their collective lips.

Both men have been scrum halves well able to exploit a dominant pack in front of them. And for Jones, now by recruit a Bristolian, there was the anticipation of a new challenge in English rugby behind a pack of forwards that could become one of the best in the land.

"Coming here has been wonderful for me," he said. "I am impressed by the whole

club and what they want to do. With the promise of the forwards especially, and the potential outside the scrum, we could really achieve something."

Rowlands, that sage old counsellor, was equally impressed with Bristol's strong pack but correctly adjudged: "Now they will need to add a little more pace. If they do that they will become formidable."

The sight of Jones at a Courage League game reflected the welcome infiltration of high-class players from other lands into the English game. They have their detractors, but to close one's doors is to close one's mind. Players such

as Jones can but enhance the skills of those around them. And watching master craftsmen at work is always a delight.

Jones, who was supported by a little travelling army of supporters from Bridgend, complete with their giant Welsh dragon flag, was a perfect signing for Bristol. Behind this powerful pack, they needed a wise old head. Jones is that and a great deal more, and the young Ireland fly half, Paul Burke, outside him could not have hoped for a finer tutor.

Shaw, happily restored to fitness, and Adams were dominant in the lineouts; the front

row was always combative and powerful and Corry, Corkery and Rollitt were superior in the loose. Only uncertain finishing outside the scrum cost Bristol a 50-point win.

They so dominated the opening half-hour that Burke had seven penalty kicks at goal. He could land only three of his attempts and, when Botica replied, a 9-3 lead seemed absurd given the mastery of Bristol. The low driving positions of their forwards in the loose, particularly, was technically most impressive.

The tries did come, eventually, against an outplayed Orrell side for whom one

fears this winter. Tuiamala apart, they offered little threat.

With tries by Breeze, Hull, twice, and a penalty try allied to Burke's 18-point kicking tally, Bristol won easily. Sterner tests await but the cobwebs are being blown away at the Memorial Ground.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Hull (2), Breeze, penalty try. Conversions: Burke (3). Penalties: Burke (18). Orrell: Tries: Botica. Conversion: Botica. Penalty goal: Botica. BRISTOL: P. Hull, B. Breeze, F. Walsors, M. Dorney, D. Tuiamala, P. Burke, A. Shaw, P. Adams, D. Corkery, E. Rollitt. ORRELL: R. Botica, J. Naylor, D. Lyon, L. Tuiamala, N. Healey, F. Botica, S. Cooper, J. Connolly, M. Scott, S. Turner, A. Bennett, C. Cusack, P. O'Neil, P. Angelsen, A. McFarlane. Healey replaced by P. Turner, 45th min. Referee: A. Pacey (Cornwall).

Irish revel in tale of the unexpected

London Irish 34
Northampton 21

By ALISON KEVYN

IT HAD to come to an end soon, that phenomenal run from last season in which Northampton not only won every game, but also completely annihilated all comers — piling on points in try-scoring spectacles and delivering record-breaking scorelines week after week. But who would have thought that London Irish, that team so suffused with general benevolence, would be the side to stop them in their tracks? Bath, sure, Leicester, yes. But London Irish?

And not only did the exiles beat Northampton, the team that trounced them in the Courage League second division last year, but they won the match in such style that it was quite bewitching to watch. The two first division newcomers produced a cracking 15-man contest at a relentless pace.

The match unfolded rather like a good book: devilishly complicated with twists and turns throughout the plot. Quite absorbing, but entirely unpredictable.

London Irish looked invigorated. Benefitting enormously from a determined coaching team led by Clive Woodward, undoubtedly the hero of the piece. Coaching sessions have started to feature guest performances from former international Willie Anderson and sports scientists from St Mary's College have been adding their weight to the training sessions.

It is from this platform that London Irish are so effectively able to launch their new-look

team. The side now features nine players with international prospects who were tempted across the Irish Sea thanks to an injection of sponsorship money from Guinness, and on Saturday they were worth every penny.

Victor Costello battled furiously with Tim Rodder at the base of the scrum, and David Humphreys came back from last week's disappointing performance to land seven out of his eight kicks.

Both Justin Bishop and Rob Henderson looked dangerous in the midfield, the former particularly useful in counter-attacks.

Irish got off to a good start with a penalty in the first minute before Northampton kicked into action, and two converted tries in as many minutes for Rodder and Dods saw them 14-3 up and looking like they were about to put 50 points on the home side. But Irish were not dismayed. With just six minutes of the half left, O'Kelly scored a pushover try, which Humphreys converted before kicking a penalty to take the teams to 14-13 at the break.

Northampton came back in the second half to regain control with a converted penalty try, then Irish took over. Costello and Woods scored tries, and Humphreys converted both to take his points' tally to 19.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: O'Kelly, Costello, Woods. Conversions: Humphreys (2). Penalties: Costello, Humphreys (1). Dropped goal: Humphreys. Northampton: Tries: Rodder, Dods, penalty try. Conversions: Dods (3). LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, J. Bishop, R. Henderson, P. Flood, N. Woods, D. Humphreys, J. Evans, L. Mooney, R. Kallum, G. Ralph, J. Davidson, G. Fisher, M. O'Kelly, N. Richardson, V. Costello. NORTHAMPTON: N. Best, I. Hunter, J. Ball, M. Allen, M. Dods, G. Townsend, M. Dawson, M. Volland, A. Clarke, M. Lewis, D. McDermott, S. Fooks, D. Martin, A. Pountney, T. Rodder. Fooks replaced by J. Wright (65min). Rodder replaced by S. Lander (Lewesport). Referee: S. Lander (Lewesport).

Lacklustre Gloucester fail to paper over the cracks

Gloucester 12
Sale 16

By BRYAN STILES

GLOUCESTER lived up to their reputation of being the sleeping giants of West Country rugby in this sleep-inducing muddle of a match at Kingsholm. While they slumbered, Sale picked up two valuable Courage Clubs Championship away points to further their ambition of finishing in the leading four.

Where was the famed passion and fire that used to be the hallmark of a Gloucester team? The main stand was far from full and there were bare patches around the terracing on a glorious day for rugby, suggesting that some supporters knew what to expect if they turned up. They are a fickle lot at Gloucester, but they know their rugby.

Richard Hill, the director of coaching, was in fact surprised so many had put in an appearance after the debacle of the previous Saturday, when they opened the season with a deliberately weakened team against Harlequins and paid a devastating price, losing 75-19. Hill wanted to protect his first-team players and keep them fresh for taking on teams they had a chance of beating.

Sale was one of the teams on Hill's "must-win" list so his strategy has been exposed already. "I was very disappointed," Hill said. "We made far too many mistakes. Normally we do well in the lineouts and with driving mauls, but today we didn't. We also split lots of ball in attack. Players will have to regain the respect of the fans." Hill hopes that the pattern

of the club's season will follow that of last year. He joined the club in October and the team went through a lean spell before the victories began to flow. He is hoping that his young team will produce a repeat pattern.

The trouble is that he has not got the time to allow the youngsters to blossom gradually; he needs them to mature quickly and haul in league points. He has reason to be happy about the potential of his new full back, Chris



Morris enjoying new lease of life with Sale

Carling, playing his first game after joining from Exeter. He produced some telling moves, particularly in attack.

Sale were delighted with their victory by one goal and three penalty goals to four penalty goals. They had the former Wales international centre John Devereux making his first appearance since joining from Widnes rugby league club.

The departure through injury in the seventh minute of his fellow centre, Biri, scuppered

many of their midfield plans and Sale were reduced to using Devereux as a crash ball bludgeon, to which Gloucester soon got wise. He was often wrapped up by three defenders and must have wished for a more constructive return to rugby union after an absence of seven years.

Dewi Morris, the former England scrum half, is having a new lease of life with Sale and, by the second half, was darting through half gaps in defence that Gloucester thought they had plugged. Outside him, Jos Baxendell, although he showed some neat touches, has a long way to go before he will contribute to the Sale cause like Paul Turner, his predecessor, did.

More, too, was expected of Mark Mapletto, his opposite number. His goal kicking and touch finding were good, but supporters were expecting to see more of the fine running he has shown in the past.

Mapletto kicked two penalties and Griffin replied in kind to leave the score 6-6 at the interval. Mapletto kicked two more in the second half but Sale scored an all-important try when Baxendell set off on a kick and charge to set up a position in the corner that brought a touchdown for Diamond. Griffin converted from the touchline and, in injury time, added another penalty from wide out to put the seal on victory.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Penalty goals: Mapletto (4). Sale: Try: Diamond. Conversion: Griffin. Penalty goals: Griffin (2). GLOUCESTER: C. Callard, E. Anderson, A. Givens, M. Roberts, M. Lloyd, M. Mapletto, S. Bennett, J. Widdow, P. Givens, A. Dawson, P. Glanville, R. Fisher, D. Jennings, S. Devereux. Stanley replaced by S. Edwards (71min). P. Hall temporarily replaced by Roberts (64-73). SALE: J. Widdow, D. Ross, J. Devereux, M. Biri, T. Biri, J. Baxendell, D. Morris, P. Smith, S. Diamond, A. Smith, D. O'Grady, J. Fowler, G. Biddison, A. Morris, C. Vyvyan. Biri replaced by Griffin (71min). Referee: A. Spradbury (Bristol).

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RACING

Urbina given classic vote of confidence

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG Spaniard who visited Newmarket for a working holiday in 1994 and decided to stay has been given the chance of achieving classic glory in the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday.

Oscar Urbina will ride the Luca Cumani-trained Mons, 7-2 joint-favourite with Dushyant for the season's final classic, after making a name for himself this summer with 24 winners.

Urbina, 24, rode 94 winners in Spain and was champion apprentice there two seasons running before visiting England with the intention of staying "a month or two".

He liked what he found and despite having only three rides, without success, in his first season Urbina asked Cumani if he could stay on. Last year, he had three winners from 30 rides, but this term he has come into his own.

Cumani said yesterday: "He has got very good tactical strength and understands about pace. Horses run for him and he seems to have a good strategy during races."

"In conjunction with the owners of Mons, we discussed who would ride yesterday and I gave them all the options. They decided they would be very happy with Oscar."

"Mons is well and he has got the advantage of being a relatively fresh horse. He had a long break after the Classic Trial at Sandown in April before having two prep races for the St Leger, both of which were satisfactory without being resounding successes."

Mons was an encouraging fourth to St Mawes in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood before finishing half a length behind Dushyant in the

Great Voltigeur Stakes at York last month.

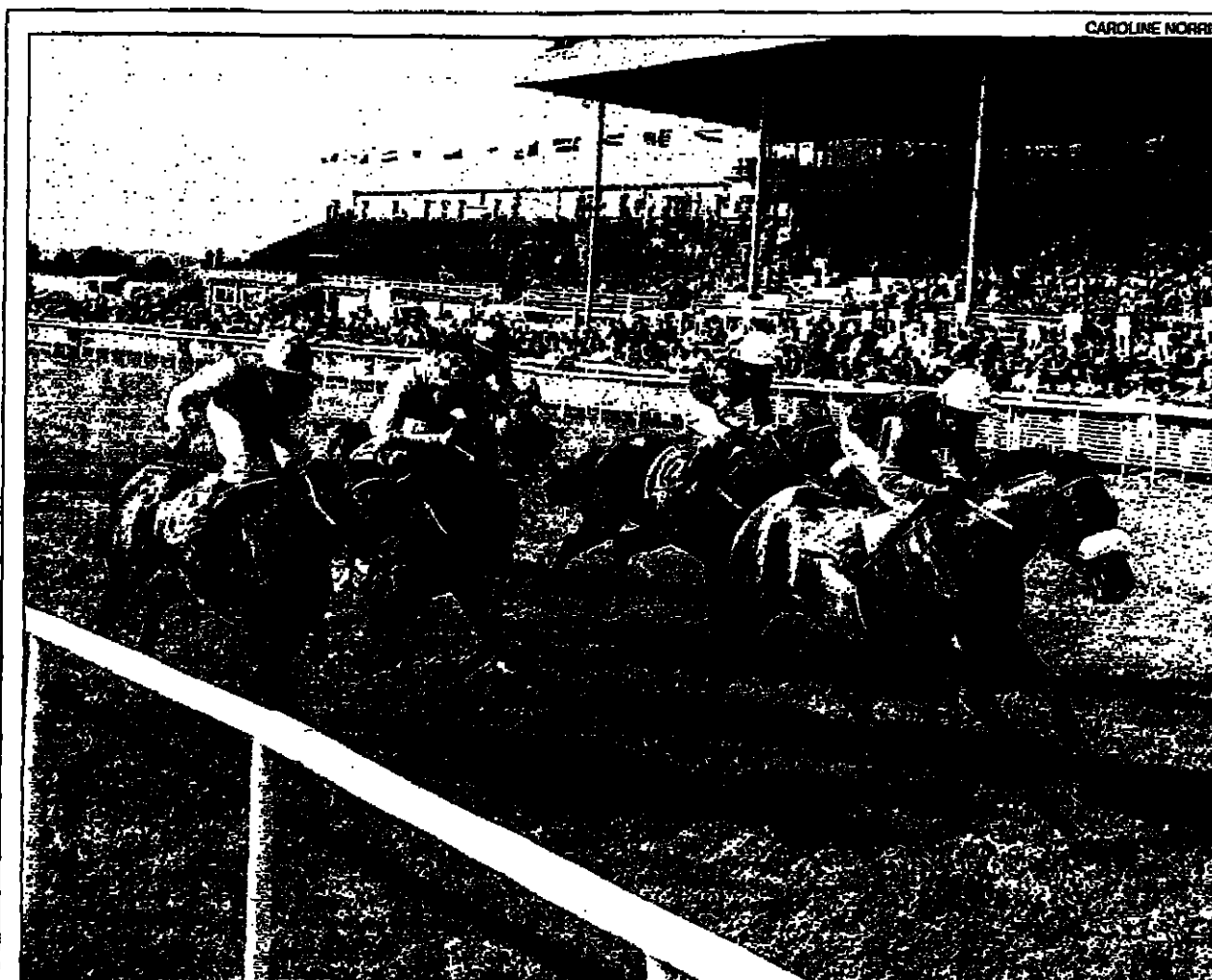
Urbina, who was born in the small northern Spanish town of Vitoria, lives in Newmarket with his brother. In the same way the Italian Frankie Dettori quickly learned the language while being attached to Cumani, Urbina's command of English is improving rapidly.

"I have never been in a classic race before and this is good news. Mons was very well at York, where he was beaten by a good horse. He's in great form and I think he'll run well. He should like the trip," he said yesterday.

In what appears to be one of the most open St Leger races for years, there was a significant market move over the weekend for the Dermot Weld-trained Gordi, who will now be ridden by Kieren Fallon instead of Olivier Peslier. The Queen's Vase winner is down to 8-1 (from 10-1) with William Hill.

Weld said yesterday: "He pulled a muscle six weeks ago, which put his participation in doubt, but he has recovered from that and worked after racing with Vintage Crop at the Curragh a week last Saturday and on Friday morning. We are satisfied with the way he went and he is entitled to take his chance."

Meanwhile, the state of the ground will determine which Welsh horse will be ridden by Michael Kinane in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown on the same day. If the going is genuinely good or softer, Zagreb, the runaway Irish Derby winner, will run. However, if faster conditions prevail, Dance Design, the Irish Oaks winner, will get the call.



Bianca Nera and Darley speed clear of their rivals in the Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh yesterday

Bianca Nera boosts Loder's hand

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT THE CURRAGH

BIANCA NERA emphasised yet again the strength of the David Loder-trained two-year-olds when overcoming traffic problems to win yesterday's group one Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh.

It was only 150 yards from the line that Kevin Darley pulled Bianca Nera out for a run but she accelerated impressively to beat the John Gosden-trained Ryafan by half a length with Azra a neck back in third.

The other British runner, Crystal Crossing, started favourite but was not as fortunate as Bianca Nera in securing a clear passage and finished sixth. Mick Kinane was on my outside and I had nowhere to go. I never got a blow in but we were beaten too far to say we would have won," her jockey, John Reid, said. Darley was anxious a furlong out on

the winner as Ryafan and Azra tussled for the lead. "The gap between them got smaller and smaller and I had to pull back and switch. There's no doubt that she is a Guinness filly," Darley said. Loder was adding this group one race to Bahamian Bounty's Prix Morny and said: "I wish I had a stable full like her. She has won three races now inside a month, which is good going by any standard, but she has a tremendous temperament and constitution."

"We took the chance of supplementing her for this [at a cost of £15,000]

because it was the only seven-furlong group one race for her and this is her ideal trip, but I was sweating a furlong out. She's highly unlikely to run again this year but if she does it will be in the Prix Marcel Bressan."

Ryafan ran well on only her second appearance and Pat Eddery, fresh from his 10,994-1 five-time at Haydock on Saturday, said: "She has run a sound race and will step up from that. She will get a mile well."

British runners also dominated the group three Trained Partner Matron Stakes when Donna Viola just got the better of the pace-maker Hagwah by half a length. John Reid rode a strong finish to get the Chris Wall-trained filly up near the line. It was Newmarket trainer's first winner in Ireland from only his second runner. Wall said: "I'm delighted with that and will now aim for the Prix de l'Opera at Longchamp during the Arc weekend."

BIG RACE DETAILS

4.15 MOYGLARE STUD STAKES (Group 1, 2-Y-O fillies, 5f 100yds, 100yds)
1. Bianca Nera (K. Darley, 3-1) 2. Ryafan (Pat Eddery, 5-2) 3. Azra (K. Darley, 14-1) 4. Crystal Crossing (R. W. 11-1) 5. St. Patrick (R. W. 11-1) 6. St. George (R. W. 11-1) 7. St. James (R. W. 11-1) 8. St. John (R. W. 11-1) 9. St. Mary (R. W. 11-1) 10. St. Peter (R. W. 11-1) 11. St. Paul (R. W. 11-1) 12. St. Stephen (R. W. 11-1) 13. St. Thomas (R. W. 11-1) 14. St. Timothy (R. W. 11-1) 15. St. Vincent (R. W. 11-1) 16. St. William (R. W. 11-1) 17. St. X (R. W. 11-1) 18. St. Y (R. W. 11-1) 19. St. Z (R. W. 11-1) 20. St. A (R. W. 11-1) 21. St. B (R. W. 11-1) 22. St. C (R. W. 11-1) 23. St. D (R. W. 11-1) 24. St. E (R. W. 11-1) 25. St. F (R. W. 11-1) 26. St. G (R. W. 11-1) 27. St. H (R. W. 11-1) 28. St. I (R. W. 11-1) 29. St. J (R. W. 11-1) 30. St. K (R. W. 11-1) 31. St. L (R. W. 11-1) 32. St. M (R. W. 11-1) 33. St. N (R. W. 11-1) 34. St. O (R. W. 11-1) 35. St. P (R. W. 11-1) 36. St. Q (R. W. 11-1) 37. St. R (R. W. 11-1) 38. St. S (R. W. 11-1) 39. St. T (R. W. 11-1) 40. St. U (R. 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Tim Reeve fails to put the exhilaration of skydiving into words, but says you must believe it is amazing

Whuffos think it's hairy, nutters know it's not

Freefall skydiving: air cooled, gravity powered, 100 per cent pure adrenalin. Look at the photographs, imagine what it's like and count slowly up to 60.

One minute. That's roughly what you get. A minute of freefall. Whoop it up with friends, sky surf, or simply drill a hole through the sky. If you get bored you can always take the bike out for a spin.

Once upon a time diving from an aeroplane was considered rather silly, unless you were a hairy paratrooper, or the plane was on fire. The word skydiving inevitably produces one of two reactions: "Raving bonkers", and "Actually, it's something I've always wanted to try."

Most people feel this way, especially after a few drinks, but never get round to it. Jumping from a plane nearly four kilometres up isn't always the first thing that springs to mind. But skydiving is now a sport shared by young and old alike. Last year 27,000 people in the UK made their first jump. Sadly, many people have something of an image problem with skydiving: skydivers call these "ceptics" whuffos (as in whuff to you) jump out of a hairy plane. Traumatic deceleration phobia (fear of hitting hard objects at speed) is natural and healthy. Parachuting is safe compared with many other sports, but accidents make good headlines. This has made people view skydivers as "the suicidal pursuit of the terminal," a sport for a daredevil elite. Try telling that to the 98-year-old vicar who jumped recently.

It is only over the last ten years that skydiving has been transformed by technical advances, making it safe, colourful and accessible to anyone. From a design that apparently amused the Mona Lisa as she sat for Leonardo da Vinci 500 years ago, to the 1994 World Record (216 men and women

SPORT FOR ALL

in freefall formation), skydiving has come a long way. It is a truly amazing sport, full of people who have found reward in its exhilaration.

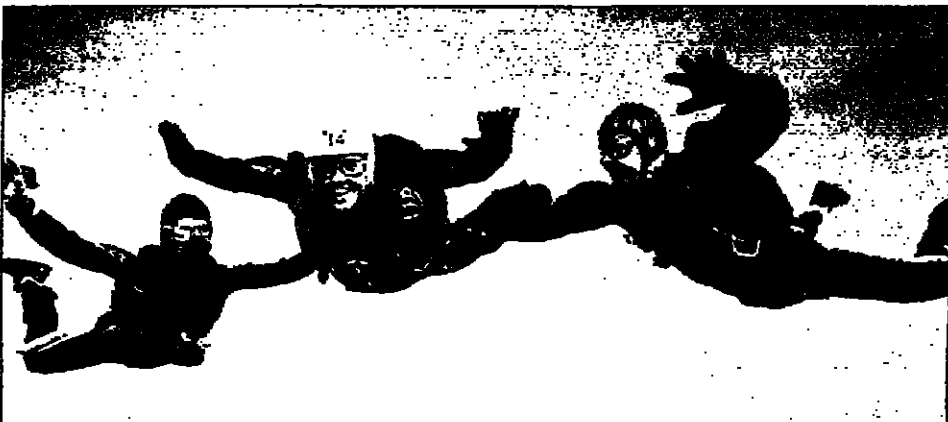
Whuffos think skydiving is dangerous; which of course, it is if you're in the pub trying to impress someone. The biggest question is what if the parachute doesn't open? Most modern parachutes are fitted with a CYPRES, a £1,000 gizmo that automatically opens the reserve if needed.

Whuffos fear landing. Hard landings went out with old-fashioned round parachutes. Most people think of parachutes as round, but modern sport parachutes are rectangular (but confusingly known as squares). Squares fly like a wing, allowing stand-up landings, so there's no rolling on the ground. It's like stepping off a chair.

Whuffos want to know if you can breathe in freefall? Yes, it's identical to breathing on the ground. Can you talk in freefall? No. Only Patrick Swayze and Keanu Reeves do this in movies like *Point Break*. How fast do you go? About 120 miles an hour. Will I throw up, or do something even worse? Thousands of people of all ages do their first jump every year and their laundry bill is quite normal. Yes it's scary, but scary is fun! Stuart Webster, a 33-year-old businessman, is not a



Tandem skydiving: A novice is harnessed to an instructor — and so achieves instant freefall with no training at all. This is the easy way down; now try it on your own



Three in a row: join a display team, good for the daredevils who like to show off

Whuffo. He recently did his first jump. I asked him to describe the sensation. He hesitated, lost for words. "The first few seconds are like a computer crash: the brain kind of goes into autopilot. You do the drills instinctively. It's the ultimate ride; the neuronal equivalent of breaking the sound barrier. I can't really explain it..." He tailed off. "But it's awesome."

I asked him if he was going to take it up full time; he snorted with ridicule. "Are you mad? Of course!" Paul Austin (who stopped counting after about 4,000 jumps) and I (with only 400), compared notes, and together we tried to put it into words: falling. No matter how many times you try to explain it you can't. Trust me; it's great.

How do you start? A tandem jump. Harnessed to an instructor, you don't have to do anything vital, except grin at the cameraman in freefall. No training. Tandem was meant to be a way of teaching, but is now a ride for anyone. People are hooked after a tandem, and learn to skydive by doing an accelerated freefall course (learning faster, not falling faster).

Developed to bypass the slow and tedious static-line to

freefall progression system, it's the safest, speediest and most cost-effective way to learn to skydive, consisting of eight instructor-supervised jumps and ten solo jumps. Bang! You're a British Parachute Association Category VIII skydiver, and you can jump when ever you like. Once you've learnt the basics, you can try formation skydiving, a competitive sequence of team manoeuvres or join display teams (popular if you like showing off) or travel to the famous drop zones of Florida and California, or go on skydiving holidays (boogies) in exotic locations like Zanzibar, Cuba and South Africa or simply pitch up at the local skydive centre and yahoo out of the plane with friends: it's a whole new world.

Anual costs are similar to skiing. Once you have qualified each jump costs about £14. The initial expense is on training and kit. But watch out; those prone to addiction degenerate into full-time fanatics, wearing strange T-shirts, speaking incomprehensible jargon and spending every holiday travelling to exotic foreign lands to leap from planes.

DAVE MITCHELL



On yer bike: an unusual way to travel down to earth

INFORMATION

THE SKYDIVING Company runs freefall courses in the UK and abroad. A tandem in the UK costs £160, and a two-week freefall holiday in Florida (including flights and accommodation) costs £1,700. The Skydiving Company's parachutes are all fitted with CYPRES automatic opening device. Call: 0181-305 1107.

SO HOW did it all start? The parachute (French *parapente*, to avoid *chute*, fall) was designed by Leonardo da Vinci and was first used 13 years before the Battle of Waterloo. The parachutist was the French aeronaut André-Jacques Garnerin, who released himself over Paris from a balloon in 1797. Skydivers then had to wait 100 years for the Wright brothers to invent a plane to jump out of. Meanwhile, the first successful British parachutist

HISTORY

was John Hampton in about 1840. There was public opposition to Hampton's jump because his predecessor, Robert Cocking, had suffered a bad case of deceleration trauma. Cocking's parachute was the Sinclair CS of aerodynamic design: good idea, but not quite right. He had to spend 5,000 feet in freefall considering his mistake. Parachuting gradually de-

veloped, becoming a showman's gimmick to thrill crowds up until the First World War, when it saved the lives of more than 800 balloon observers. Skydiving began properly in 1919 when Leslie Irvin activated his own parachute in freefall. By the 1930s it had become a sport, though up to the 1970s it involved using military surplus parachutes that wouldn't have been out of place at Arnhem. Nowadays they are purpose built, high technology.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

If you picked up

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and heard your right-hand opponent open Two Clubs, how would you feel at £50 a hundred? I'd ring the wife and tell her to hold the champagne. But when TGR proprietor Howard Cohen held this hand he came out of it plus \$50. This was the full deal:

Dealer West Game all Rubber Bridge

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Schools entry

There is still just time to enter the latest British Schools Chess Championship sponsored by *The Times*. The deadline for school entries has been extended until tomorrow. Last minute school entries should immediately contact Mitchell Taylor, the chief organiser, on 0181-959 6915.

Grand prix victory

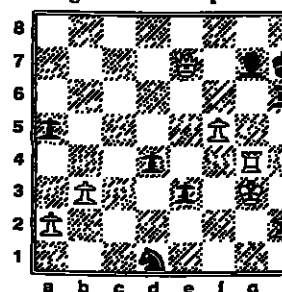
Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, took the \$30,000 first prize in the Credit Suisse speed tournament in Geneva, defeating PCA world champion Garry Kasparov in the final.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Garry Kasparov
Credit Suisse Grand Prix
Geneva, August 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 d4 cxd4
3 dxc5 Nc6
4 Nf3 Ng4
5 Nc3 Nf4
6 Be3 Nf4
7 Bg5 Nf4
8 Bx4 Nf4
9 Bg3 Nf4
10 Be2 Nf4
11 Bxg4 Bxg4
12 Bf2 Nf4
13 Bf2 Nf4
14 Qd2 Nf4
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27 Qd2 Nf4
28 Qd2 Nf4

Diagram of final position



Times book

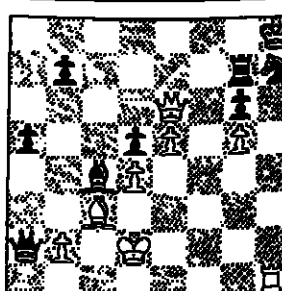
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing. □ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Canfield - Stowe, Oakland 1954. In this position, White has very active play on the queenside and can, in fact, win immediately. However, he needs to find a very accurate sequence to do so. Can you see it?

Solution on page 45



AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

Save £2 on China exhibition tickets



The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the new China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, *Times* readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

هكذا من الأصل

Dividend expected to rise as market awaits life insurer's plans for expansion into banking

Rising claims likely to hit Pru profit

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

RISING general insurance claims in the UK and poor investment results mean Prudential, the UK's largest life insurer, is expected to report a dip in its interim profits this week. However, analysts will be more interested in hearing about Prudential's plans for expansion into the banking and financial services industry when the company reports on Wednesday.

The interim results come too

early to include the proposed £1.75 billion sale of Mercantile & General, Prudential's reinsurer, to Swiss Re, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Its completion will leave Prudential with plenty of cash. It has already said it wants to buy a substantial building society or life insurer. The Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester building societies, both of which want to convert into banks, are believed to be the most likely targets.

David Nisbet of NatWest Securities is forecasting a £17 million fall in operating profit to June 30 from £390 million in 1995 to £373 million.

Dividends per share are expected to increase from 5.3p to 5.7p to reflect the expected growth in Prudential's life business of around 8 per cent.

In July, Prudential revealed an encouraging half-year new business performance in the life sector, which suggested the industry had regained public confidence. Pep sales

coupled with new corporate pensions helped annual premium business. Life profits for the half year are likely to be up around 8 per cent at £361 million.

Mr Nisbet does not expect an announcement on Prudential's surplus "orphan" assets in the life fund, other than a holding statement confirming that Prudential is still in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry over their distribution. When Prudential announced at its full-year results

in March that it was looking at the surplus, it suggested discussions with the DTI would take at least a year.

Some industry observers say Prudential's endeavours to release its own orphan assets may have prompted some of its reservations over the proposed merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly, the life insurers.

Refuge has been accused of failing to take into account orphan assets in its ordinary branch life fund. One fund

manager, Perpetual, which has a 7 per cent stake, claimed the company had been undervalued by £400 million. Prudential holds 6 per cent of Refuge and might have felt that its own request for the release of orphans would be adversely affected had it not taken a stand on those belonging to Refuge.

The life insurance sector is currently buoyed up by the prospect of increased dividends and windfall payouts from such redistributions.

Finance adviser is stage-struck

THE Royal Opera House brought to the fore the dangers of inviting television cameras into the workplace. Now it's the turn of Birmingham-based Wesleyan Financial Services, perhaps the only UK insurance company brave enough to allow BBC2 inside its doors. The fly-on-the-wall documentary that goes out tomorrow night preys on Wayne Percival, a quick-witted Liverpoolian and financial adviser at Wesleyan. In a bid to uncover why Britain spent £100 billion on insurance last year, the BBC trailed after Percival for four days in his blue Rover 200. The curse has already struck him. The week after filming, Percival broke his leg playing table tennis, forcing him to take two months off work.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

else went on holiday. I never expected anything like this."

STEVEN REDGRAVE. Britain's Olympic gold medalist, watched 213 boats, including teams from TSB, Hoare Govett and Citibank, row between Richmond and the Isle of Dogs during Saturday's Great River Race. Even "Interplod", Interpol's four-ear dinghy, completed the 22-mile course. In a reference to a rash remark that the rowing champion made in Atlanta — "Shoot me if you see me near a boat again" — Redgrave, trawled in as official starter, carefully pointed the cannon away from himself.

Stonewalled

THE executive directors at Cattle's, the financial services and insurance broking group currently based in Hull, could soon be without a roof over their heads. A shortage of bricklayers has meant that work on the group's new head office in Leeds, that hasn't yet started, might not be finished for the October 1 deadline. Kier, the construction company, is having difficulty recruiting bricklayers away from Germany to work on "Kingston House" on the Spring Road Industrial Park. Eddie Cran, chairman at Cattle's, explains it as "the Auf Wiedersehen, Pet factor".

AS OIL prices hit an all-time high last week, the highest since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, a senior official from Opec, talking to The Gulf Today, said: "Saddam is helping to improve the income of his Gulf War enemies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."

MORAG PRESTON

Step of equality

FED UP with "the boys always holding the bashes", three City females are organising the first traders' ball to be held this Thursday. Fiona Coull from Svenska Handelsbanken, and two chums from Nomura International and LGT Asset Management, have invited more than 150 men and 100 women to the charity event in the Barbican conservatory. Money raised from "The Early Birds' Ball" will go towards Great Ormond Street. Said Coull: "We're quite a well-paid bunch, and we wanted to give something back."

Mallet masters

THIS year's winner of the Corney & Barrow Golf Croquet League is Leopold Joseph & Sons, the merchant bank. Justin Pryor, one of last year's runners up, and Richard Fellows, with his high-tech mallet, made up the winning pair nicknamed "The Rolling Bulls". Meanwhile, John French, a moneybroker at Prebon Yamane, made a poor excuse for his team's 7-3 defeat: he felt the grass at Exchange Square was "too short" and "too dry". Oliver McEvoy, French's sprightly of a sidekick, who joined Prebon Yamane after only 18 weeks as a graduate trainee, was clearly enjoying his new-found celebrity. "I was only standing in when someone

BTR set to cut dividend

BTR, the diversified industrial company, is likely to cut its dividend payout by up to 40 per cent when it announces half-year results on Thursday.

Ian Strachan, chief executive, is also expected to detail a far-reaching restructuring plan that will include up to £2 billion of disposals.

Analysts predict that the dividend may be cut from 5p to as little as 3.5p. A dividend cut the first for more than a decade, would enable BTR to restore dividend payouts to a more sustainable level, as well as freeing money for investment. BTR's cash flow has steadily deteriorated in the past few years, eroding the company's ability to make high dividend payouts.

Mr Strachan has made clear since becoming chief executive at the start of the year, that he wants to slim the sprawling giant created by Sir Owen Green, the former chairman. BTR will concentrate on building up high-margin engineering work. It is likely to sell non-core activities, including its remaining consumer and non-manufacturing companies.

Equity pool

Gresham Trust is today launching the Eagle Star Co-Investment Plan to provide an equity pool of £120 million for investment in unquoted equity financings.

Cybertec task

Cybertec, a multimedia communications company, is to supply Osmosis, a computer component supplier, with video-conferencing equipment in a deal worth £925,000.



John Lewis, whose planned flotation of Principal Hotels reflects the leisure industry's interest in coming to market

Principal to seek £50m in flotation

BY ERIC REGULY

THE leisure industry's rush to the stock market continued yesterday when Principal Hotels, the operator of classic period hotels, said that it intends to raise about £50 million in an autumn flotation.

The sale, expected to give Principal a market capitalisation of £100 million, will probably be one of the last of its kind this year. The hotel sector has been flooded with new equity in recent months as groups such as Jarvis, Millennium & Copthorne, Cliveden, MacDonald and Thistle have taken advantage of the upswing in the hotels cycle. There are already signs that the flotation blitz is running out of momentum. Loughborough, for example, has decided to seek trade buyers for its Princess and Metropole hotel chains after postponing their £700 million flotation.

Principal has 2,500 bedrooms in 21 hotels. Sixteen of the properties are in England, with the other five in Edinburgh, Dublin, Amsterdam and Copenhagen, with two. The hotels have catered primarily to leisure customers, although, after being upgraded to include conference facilities, they are increasingly going after the business market.

The company was created in 1994 through a £70 million management buyout financed by a consortium led by NatWest Ventures. John Lewis, the chairman, and four other executive directors own about 10 per cent of Principal. They intend to retain most of their equity in the belief that yields from regional hotels will continue to rise. Principal has no properties in London.

Principal had an operating profit of £8.1 million on turnover of £42.6 million in its last financial year. James Capel, the company's broker, expects operating profits of £11.5 million in the year to October 31.

A pathfinder prospectus is to be published at the end of the month. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the underwriter, hopes to price the issue by late October or early November. Principal said that it will use flotation proceeds to cut debt and to expand by creating 300 or more bedrooms. Over the past two years, it has spent £11 million to add 200 bedrooms, and conference and leisure facilities. Business clients now provide about half of turnover.

Poll shows small firms favour minimum wage

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

STRONG support for a statutory minimum wage from both business and the public is indicated today in new opinion polls commissioned by Britain's trade unions.

Trade union leaders say that the findings, released as the Trades Union Congress opens its annual conference today, counters claims by business organisations and the Conservatives that industry generally is opposed to a minimum wage.

According to a MORI poll of 150 small firms, many from sectors such as retailing where a minimum wage is likely to hit, small business backs Labour's plans to introduce a national minimum wage. Three in five of the businesses

polled support a minimum wage, with 24 per cent strongly in favour and 35 per cent tending to support it. More than a quarter back a minimum wage set at more than £4 an hour, the target of a number of trade unions. Seventy-seven per cent believe that their own businesses would not suffer.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, which commissioned the poll, said it showed a minimum wage was supported by business. He said: "Employers are changing their tune. They see the value of a national minimum." The TUC will on Wednesday back Labour's plans for a national minimum, as well as

supporting a specific target of £4.26 an hour, which the Labour leadership does not want to see set in advance of the general election.

Separate poll evidence from NOP, commissioned by the TUC itself, shows 80 per cent of the public in favour of a national minimum, 87 per cent of trade union members and Labour party supporters, and even two-thirds of Conservative supporters.

Part-time workers are increasingly professionals with specialist skills, fully employed working for a range of organisations, rather than just low-paid, low-skilled workers, according to a new study today by the Institute of Management and the TUC.

Airlines will give up slots for a price

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

AMBITIOUS plans by America's leading airlines to expand their operations at Heathrow by ousting rivals already flying from the airport are to be fiercely resisted — unless the price is right.

A growing number of airlines flying into overcrowded Heathrow are privately beginning to accept that a formal slot market could be the only method of creating the "open skies" being sought by American airlines. But, they say they will not give up their slots without compensation.

Official government talks between Britain and America over "open skies" across the Atlantic have now broken down largely because of the slot-allocation problem.

Britain's negotiators have told US government officials that they will only open up Heathrow to more American services if British Airways is first allowed to complete its planned near-merger with American Airlines. But, say the Americans, the airport is already full and therefore the British must agree to take away existing slots and hand them to their airlines.

The strength of opposition to such a plan was made clear by British Midland Airways — it has 14 per cent of all take-off and landing slots at Heathrow. "We would be very unhappy if governments got involved in handing over slots which had been confiscated," said Austin Reid, managing director of BMA. "If US airlines were able to get ahead of the queue as a result of such a thing it would be totally wrong."

But significantly he also gave tacit approval to the developing slot market idea. "It seems to us to be the only sensible change that anyone has proposed so far," he said.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5635 (+0.0005)
German mark 2.3271 (+0.0175)
Exchange index 85.7 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2811.2 (+13.9)
FT-SE 100 3893.0 (+25.4)
New York Dow Jones 5659.86 (+43.65)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20152.53 (-14.37)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.38	15.88
Belgium Fr	50.89	46.43
Canada \$	2.257	2.087
Cyprus Cyp£	0.7534	0.6864
Denmark Kr	9.56	8.76
Finland Mkk	7.83	6.98
France Fr	6.37	7.72
Germany Dm	2.481	2.271
Greece Dr	357	352
Hong Kong \$	12.76	11.76
Iceland	115	95
Ireland P	1.016	0.936
Israel Shk	5.32	4.87
Italy Lira	2475	2320
Japan Yen	165.30	169.30
Malta	0.603	0.545
Netherlands Gld	2.783	2.533
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.58	9.78
Portugal Esc	249.50	231.00
S Africa Rd	7.64	6.84
Spain Pta	208.00	190.00
Sweden Kr	11.03	10.23
Switzerland Fr	2.023	1.843
Turkey Lira	139152	131152
USA \$	1.665	1.535

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Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948-1967 with registered number 1473721

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Number	Authorised Amount	Share Capital	
		Issued and fully paid	Amount
29,800,000	£1,490,000	ordinary shares of 5p each	22,809,256 £1,140,462.80

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Surety House
78-86 Brigstock Road
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Surrey CR7 7JA

9th September 1996

Ten years ago, the Trades Union Congress was riven by anger and despair. Its members had reaped a legal whirlwind of reform designed to destroy the power and privileges many had abused during the 1970s. Unemployment had trebled in six years to a peak of 3.1 million as high exchange and interest rates razed swathes of manufacturing industry and state firms were rationalised.

Miners had suffered a cruel and symbolic defeat after a year-long dispute that other unions felt obliged to support even if they knew it was doomed, an archaic cavalry charge against history. In 1986, fraternal unions were at each others' throats over another tragedy for their members after *The Times* and other News International titles finally broke print unions' notorious stranglehold over national newspapers.

This week, Congress will be held in a very different atmosphere. True, Conservative Central Office will be looking for any hint of aggression, for instance over minimum wages, to paint unions as sleeping ogres, waiting for the wake-up call of a Labour government to stalk the land again with cudgel and ransom demand. True, some observers foresee another winter of discontent spreading to private industry as post and rail unions rebel against years of public sector restraint in a faint echo of the suicidal events of 1979.

To a new generation, however, unions are now the worthy underdogs again. Millions of the formerly

A memo to unions: if you can't beat them join them



GRAHAM SEABRIGHT

press-ganged doubtless find their working lives more comfortable and sane without union battles. But as many millions are looking for a new helping hand when nothing seems secure, when weak managers have eagerly taken on the role of tyrant and when financial institutions abuse their power to maximise the short-term share of profit, yet scorn investment in expansion.

If unions now seem more cuddly, it is also because they have lost so much power and, to many young people, even everyday relevance. There are now two million more private shareholders than union members. That is an astonishing social change. It means that investors in privatised utilities (which dominate shareholding lists) are at least as representative of ordinary folk as unionised employees.

Under John Monks, the TUC has swum with this tidal wave of change. The TUC has become a lobbyist, campaigner and educator, an employees' CBI, rather than a power broker. It is easier to lobby your friends, but under a Labour government the TUC is ready to play the role of the CBI under the Tories. Tony Blair's commitment to

a minimum wage is its main victory of this era. It need not be an embarrassment this week if the fixers play their cards right. It is perfectly feasible to have a modest statutory minimum, with a higher figure as threshold for relief from employers' National Insurance contributions. The TUC's next campaign might be to question that impost altogether. Anyone dedicated to full employment should ask at every opportunity why we tax jobs.

If the TUC is ready and packed, however, most member unions have still to book their ticket to an expanding future. They are still consolidating and adapting. Most

are much more user-friendly, offering personal services, personal representation, group discounts and the like. Few have grasped any new role to compare in importance with collective bargaining, which will always be central to unions but which, outside the ever-shrinking public sector, is unavailable to many existing and potential members.

Demos, the think-tank, has become so impatient that it suggests by-passing unions in favour of a new kind of "employee mutual". These would aim to help people in insecure jobs facing serial redundancy to survive and prosper. In these new patterns of working life, which the Labour Party has embraced as inevitable even if some of us have not, people would need to organise their own marketing, pensions, training and security. In a Demos paper published to coincide with the Congress, Geoff Mulgan and Tom Bentley envisage new tax-advantaged legal entities that are part labour agency, part union, part co-operative as "an appropriate model for economies based on human capital".

Maybe. Yet all these functions have been provided by trade unions

at one time or another, whether employers wanted them or not. Unions have not even been that far from the welfare societies envisaged by Frank Field and the late Sir Keith Joseph. Given efficient professional management, which is admittedly the biggest caveat at Blackpool this week, they are well placed to develop in any direction employees' needs demand. In financial services speak, they have distribution power.

The most pressing need is for someone to provide flexible, low-cost money-purchase pension plans for the low-paid and the necessarily mobile. These are the sort of people that traditional company pensions schemes do not fit and that tailored personal pensions have conspicuously failed. Official help is needed, but mainly to oblige employers to back properly authorised schemes.

To minimise suspicions of political interference, unions might best have funds more or less tracking the relevant shares indices, with an alternative ethical variant. In a different sense, however, interference could bring members closer to the companies they "own" than any but big individual shareholders. As funds build up over a generation, unions would become powerful investors, as in America, able between them to influence corporate Britain from the same standpoint as other shareholders. By then, they should have learnt to exercise it more responsibly than most bonus-driven, morally neutered institutional investors do today.

Robert Miller and Jon Ashworth look at the Stock Exchange's toughened stance

Insider dealers under notice

Insider dealing is the ultimate City crime. But dramatic Hollywood-style pictures of high-flying Wall Street figures being led away in handcuffs — a kind of rough justice not meted out in London — should not make anyone think it is some kind of game. Innocent investors are most often the victims. As Mr Justice Henry said in the first Guinness trial: "There is no such thing as victimless crime."

After 15 years of outlawry, at least two major insider dealing rings are still believed to be using the London Stock Exchange to cream off millions of pounds of investors' money by tortuous networks intended to be untraceable. They illustrate the lack of success enjoyed by the various civil and criminal authorities from the Stock Exchange and Department of Trade and Industry to the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Between 1981 and 1993, 51 people in the UK were charged with insider dealing. Of these, 14 pleaded guilty. Of the remaining 37, only nine were convicted. Despite a new statutory regime, insider dealing prosecutions have since slowed to a mere trickle, at about half a dozen.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, admits:

"This record has provoked criticism." Insider dealing in the UK is often claimed to be virtually impossible to prove without a signed confession. A prosecutor needs to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that an offence has been committed, providing endless ways of wriggling out of what may appear to be a cut-and-dried case.

Many cases simply never make it to court. One of the biggest controversies of recent years involved Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who was accused of using inside information to buy shares in Anglia Television ahead of a takeover bid by M&A. Lord Hollick's media group. Embarrassingly, Lady Archer, his wife, was a non-executive director of Anglia. Questions were asked as to how dealings came to be made in the name of Brook Saib, a Kurdish associate, and why a cheque for £80,000 was forwarded care of Lord Archer's London address.

Lord Archer admitted he had made a "grave error", and apologised to his wife for any embarrassment caused. Michael Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, ruled that no further action should be taken. Controversy flared again when Karen Morgan Thomas, a "soft commission" broker with James Capel, was accused of profiting from dealings in Anglia shares. The DTI launched an investiga-

tion, but the case was subsequently dropped. The first big case was in 1987, when Geoffrey Collier, former head of securities at Morgan Grenfell, was fined £25,000 and given a 12-month suspended sentence for insider dealing. Collier admitted using confidential information to buy shares before a bid, ironically losing £10,000.

In 1991, a Yorkshire businessman became the first person to be jailed for insider dealing in the UK. Ivor Goodman, former chairman of the Uni Group, based in Leeds, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, half of which was suspended, for selling his £12 million stake in the company before losses were announced to the world at large.

The following year, four City brokers, David Gray, Catherine Rowlands, William Liggins and Mark Riding, were convicted for their part in an insider dealing ring. They were accused of "brazen defiance" of the dealing rules. Thorold Macbie, a well-known investment analyst, was convicted of insider dealing at the High Court in Edinburgh, only to have his conviction quashed on appeal. In contrast to the classic public image of insider dealing, he had been accused of tipping off brokers that Shanks & McEwan, the waste management company, was about to issue a profits warning.

Cases take up to four years to reach the courts. The SIB, which now co-operates more closely with the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), regulator of brokers and futures dealers, points out that the regulators can only pursue authorised investment firms. In a speech to the City Forum in July this year, Sir Andrew said: "We do face a credibility problem here, and more needs to be done. Under a criminal system, the hurdle to be cleared in mounting a successful prosecution is understandably high."

"But, as a result, activities which take place outside the scope of the regulators, whether the actions of company directors or of end-users of markets, may not be taken to court. And actions which would be unacceptable and could be punished if entered into by someone who was subject to regulation can go unchallenged."

Nevertheless, insider dealers have been put on notice that their activities are now part of the agenda at the Stock Exchange. For the exchange remains the City authority charged with detecting abuse and building a case file before handing it on, most often to the DTI but sometimes the fraud office.

Richard Kilsby, director of market services at the Stock Exchange, is spearheading a new drive against insider dealing and the more catch-all offence of market abuse. He is working closely with Stuart Paul-Clark, head of regulatory systems at the exchange. Mr Paul-Clark's team has spent heavily to install a new artificial intelligence computer program known as IMAS (integrated monitoring and surveillance).

This system tracks share deals going through the market minute by minute with software that flags unusual price movements. To help regulators to make sense of



The City has been told that the exchange is determined to stamp out market abuses



Sir Andrew Large, left, SIB chairman, and Geoffrey Collier, who admitted insider dealing



them, it automatically allows for price-sensitive events such as poor results, takeover rumours, or managers leaving.

A surveillance team of six continually monitor the screens. When something untoward happens, they immediately phone the company's broker or the firm itself.

Like the SIB, Mr Kilsby believes that the new crackdown on insider dealers and market manipulators, and the subsequent prosecution of offenders will ultimately only succeed if civil law is beefed up, so that they need no longer rely on criminal trials.

Mr Kilsby points to the "cease and desist" powers available to authorities under the American system. These allow the Securities & Exchange Commission, the chief US market watchdog, to reach an agreement with a bank or finance house, whereby the institution concerned agrees to pay a fine together with a range of possible other penalties, without admitting liability. The disciplinary package can then be presented to a judge in a civil court who rubber stamps the deal.

Bankers Trust paid \$15 million in relation to fraudulent sales practices. Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street arbitrageur, was fined \$100 million in 1986 and served 22 months in jail, in connection with insider dealing offences. Robert Louis-Dreyfus, former chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, agreed to pay £140,000 in February 1991, to settle an action in America. He was alleged to have passed on information about a pending £1 billion takeover of IMS International, a market research firm.

Mr Kilsby admits that the American approach could meet with resistance in the UK. He says: "It could smack of pie-bargaining or deals which as a culture we in Britain do not accept. This is unfortunate and could be counter-productive." Nor is the US system uniformly better than that in the UK. For example, in the early stages of tracking a suspect deal, the database of information held by the Stock Exchange and the SFA on traders, brokers and other professional market users is superior to the American version. The Stock Exchange

monitoring department is in instant contact with brokers when its suspicions are aroused, and can see almost immediately who is behind a particular transaction. In the US, officials have to use "blue-sheeting" — a practice that involves sending a form to the broker in question asking for details of the deal, the day after it has happened.

The UK system is weaker, however, in tracking down the ultimate beneficiary of a deal done by a private investor. In the US, every private investor using the market for share deals must use their own personal tax code.

One difficulty facing Mr Kilsby and his surveillance team is that the Stock Exchange is a commercial as well as a regulatory body. He accepts conflicts of interest will arise, but nevertheless insists that stamping out market abuse must take priority over commercial considerations.

"Short-term bad press about insider dealing rings can still lead to long-term benefits," he argues. "Good quality regulation is absolutely vital to ensure confidence for all market users and to give investors the protection they deserve."

RADIO CHOICE

A battle with no bloodshed

Battling with the Past, Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Last Monday it was the Wars of the Roses. This morning it's 1066 and all that. Well, almost all that because there's only 30 minutes into which an awful lot has to be packed. Nevertheless, there is enough here about the Battle of Hastings and its consequences for us to admire the historical knowledge of the three academics and one author who are good-naturedly locked in combat while umpire Ronald Hutton leaves everyone sweet and tarts up the scores at the end of each round. Hutton is no dry-as-dust historian himself. When the contest gets around to the Bayeux Tapestry and the worn section that makes it difficult to decide whether, as all schoolchildren are told, it really was Harold who got a fatal eyeblow, Hutton asks impishly: "So does the story hang by a thread?"

Reading Aloud, Radio 4, 11.40pm.

Dickens excels in so many other areas that it would be unreasonable to expect his gifts to extend to writing about travel. However, *American Notes* has its moments, and so has *Pictures from Italy* which contains *An Italian Dream*, read tonight by Derek Jacobi. Dickens was spellbound by La Serenissima. "It is the only thing," he wrote "that I have ever been afraid to describe." So, conventional methods having failed him, he had to make other arrangements and he writes about Venice as if in a dream. The challenge for Jacobi is to suggest this vocally. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 8.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Arson) 2.00pm Kevin Greening 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session, with Sarah Lancashire 9.00pm Desert Discs 96. Highlights of the last of the summer's big outdoor festivals 10.00 Mark Lamarr 12.00 Charlie Surridge 4.00am Charlie Surridge

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00 Martin Kelner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thewer 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.20 Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 8.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 On the Air, with Sheila Tracy and the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie (4/5) 10.50 The Jitters 12.05am Steve Mackinn 5.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake up to Money 8.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.30 The Mags 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl 12.30pm Murrey, check 2.05pm Ruscio on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Games that Changed Football: The 1988 clash between Spurs and Nottingham Forest 8.00 The Monday Match: Derby from Blackpool Rovers v. County at Ewood Park 10.05 News Talk, with Mike Baker 11.00 Night Eds, with Valerie Sandstrom 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight, with Linda McDermott and Tim Grundy 2.05pm All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Charlow 1.00pm Andrew Reesum 3.00pm Tony Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Veracini (Overture No 5 in B flat), Brahms (Piano Quintet in F minor, Op 34); Haydn (Symphony No 50 in C); Mozart (Piano in A minor); Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll) 9.00 Morning Collection Includes Tchaikovsky (September, The Seasons); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat); Leontovskii (Fugue); Prokofiev; Mozart (String Quartet in B flat) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Vivaldi (Flute Concerto in F); Aron O Virgo Spelenders, Live Veracini; Chopin (Etude in C sharp minor, Op 10 No 4, Waltz in D flat, Op 64 No 1), Sweetlink (Fantasia Chromatic); Rzewnschome (Elegiac Rhapsody); Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1, Ghost); Veracini (Symphony No 8, Op 100); Poulenc (Oboe Sonata); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 14 in E flat) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Johann Sebastian Bach Includes of Britain 1.00pm News; Proms Chamber Music 1996. Live from the Britten Theatre at the Royal College of Music. Joana MacGregor, piano, Madeleine Mitchell, violin, David Campbell, clarinet, and Christopher van Kampen, cello, includes Bach (Contrapunctus 14, The Art of Fugue); Messiaen (Quartet for the End of Time) 2.10 Dolly Suite, Kalls and Mariela Labèque, pianos. Faure (Dolly Suite, Op 56) 2.30 BBC Proms 1996: sound the World in Eighty Minutes. A special Prom for children, introduced by Tony Robinson. New London's Choir, BBC Concert Orchestra under Ronald Corp 3.10 Interval 3.30 Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll) 4.30 Classic of 86: A British Jazz Decade. John Fordham presents the first of a new series looking at jazz in Britain today and some of the performers at the forefront of the so-called jazz revival, including Courtney Pine and Julian Joseph (14) 5.00 The Music Machine: Scales (1) 5.15 In Time, Presented by Andrew Green, includes Komagold (Film Music: The Sea Hawk, excerpts); Rachmaninov (Spring Waters, Op 14 No 11); Beethoven (Sanctus, Mass in B minor) 7.30 BBC Proms 1996. Live from the Albert Hall in London. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Tadaaki Otaka. Includes Tchaikovsky (Star-Spangled); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor) 8.25 Tchaikovsky. A tribute to the Japanese composer 8.45 Proms Part 2 Powers (Symphony); Respighi (Pines of Rome) 10.00 Ensemble, with Panny Gore Includes Greg (Andante Con Moto in C minor), Chausson (Piano Trio in G minor, Op 3) 10.45 Midday, with Mike Russell and Robert Sandall 11.30 Composers of the Week: Falla, Gerhard and the Heritage of Spain (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 P.G. Woodward's Golf Stories: High Stakes, Read by the late Simon Cadell (1/2) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week. Melvyn Bragg is joined by Sheila MacLean, Samir Zeki, Jonathan Miller and Lisa Jardine 10.00 News; Battling with the Past (FM), See Choice 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Big Ben Live: 0171-580 4444 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Dylan Wint 12.25pm Brain of Britain 1996 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; The Last September, by Elizabeth Bowen. Dramatised by Nigel Gearing, and set in 1920s County Cork. The story of a girl on the brink of womanhood. With Anna Healy, Greg Wise and Christopher Sherry (1/2) 3.00 The Afternoon Rabbit 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynn Walker reads Margaret Atwood's book, *Alias Grace* and sees David Freeman's new production of *The Magic Flute* 4.45 Short Story: Lucy, by Carl Tighe 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, FM 92.4-94.5; LW 188 (12.45-5.55am); CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102; VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089; Television and radio ratings compiled by Peter Deane, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.

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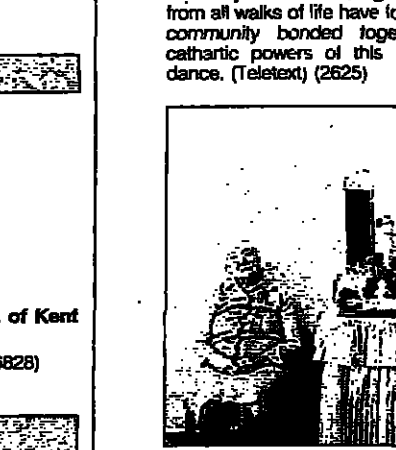
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هكذا من الأصل

Munich museum and found high levels of nicotine and cocaine. It could thus possibly be, given that both substances are derived from plants only found in the Americas, a continent which as we all know was only discovered thousands of years later by the Vikings/Irish monks/Christopher Columbus (delete as per personal preference).

Well, I think, after due reflection, the answer is that nobody knows. Was there an ancient variety of tobacco grown in Africa supplementing the lotus, mandrake and cannabis that the Ancient Egyptians were known to enjoy? Possibly – at least as explained with a smile on the Sphinx's face. But in turn that poses questions: how did they get all that building done if they were all lying around stoned all day – let alone find the energy to discover the coal fields of South America?

6.35am Hammerman (2645536)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (56064)
9.00 **FILM: Best of the Devil**
Huston cut classic with
Bogart and Greta Lotobrig
(29321422)
10.45 **FILM: Marked Woman**
based drama A "hostess"
evidence against her employer
causes the death of her husband
Davis and Humphrey Bogart
Lloyd Bacon (Telex) (648)
12.30pm **Garden Doctors (I)**
Sesame Street (1866538)
Cabinet (2633921)
2.05 **FILM: Little Nellie K**
Comedy-drama with Ju
playing mother and daughter
singing a lot. Directed by No
(Telex) (512151)
4.00 **Backslide** (Telex) (354)
down (Telex) (38) 5.00
Williams Show (Telex)
5.45 **Machinations** (21684)
6.00 **The Cosby Show: I Know**
Know. Sandra and Elvin
from college with exciting
all decide to keep it from Cit
that nobody can see the v
eyes (I) (Telex) (73)
6.30 **Boy Meets World** (Telex)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Telex)
7.55 **Books of the Century** (89)
8.00 **The Killers: Vampires of**
The relationship between
booby, a 'seabird' and the
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vampires in feeding off it
(3118)
8.30 **Strictly Dancing: Rags St**



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FAMILY CHANNEL

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 Lost (6789012) 4.00 FILM: The
 Golden Era (1234567) 5.00
 Last Mammot (5678901) 6.00
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 Tunnel (4567890)

MTV
 7.00pm Morning Movie (1234567)
 Top 10 (5678901) 8.00 Non-Stop
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log (861)1915 10.05 Jerry
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9.00 3.00 Ready, Stand-
7.05 Broadway (862)324
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5.00 Entertainment Now

Faction chief begs America for help after Iraqis are accused of backing new advance

Kurds flee towards Iran border as more towns fall

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of Kurds fled towards the Iran border yesterday as a Kurdish faction, ousted from Arbil by Iraqi troops over a week ago, lost control of two more towns in heavy fighting with a rival faction and its leader begged Washington to intervene.

Refugees raced for the border in coaches, lorries, minibuses, cars and even bulldozers loaded with beds, utensils and television sets. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) maintained that President Saddam Hussein's forces had been in action again inside the northern no-fly zone to help the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to capture the towns of Degala and Koi Sanjak.

"Iraqi troops supported by KDP tanks and artillery have taken Degala. I can confirm that Degala has fallen," said the PUK's London representative, Latif Rashid. The group said that the town of Koi Sanjak, 60 miles southeast of Arbil, had also fallen in the face of overwhelming Iraqi firepower. Many of its 30,000 inhabitants were fleeing towards the village of Rania, near the Iranian border.

Western observers were unable to confirm that Iraqi forces entrenched near Degala had been involved, but said it was likely they had supplied the KDP with ammunition and weapons. A KDP radio station said its forces had killed 300 PUK members and demanded that the rest surrender. It denied it had helped from Baghdad.

Degala is just outside Koi Sanjak, 60 miles northwest of Sulaimaniya, the PUK's last stronghold. Its loss would leave the KDP in control of most of northern Iraq, enabling Saddam indirectly to extend his influence up to the Turkish border, diplomats said.

"We call on the US and its coalition partners to intervene urgently to halt the Iraqi

aggression and end this onslaught against the Kurdish people," the PUK said. Its leader, Jalal Talabani, complained that the US missile strikes on southern Iraq last week had failed to prevent Saddam attacking the Kurdish-held north. He repeated a warning that he would have to call on Iran for support if Washington ignored him.

The US has said it will not take sides in the Kurdish conflict. Iraqi opposition groups accused Washington of turning a blind eye to the fact that Iraqi forces have dug in south of Arbil after helping the KDP fighters to capture the city nine days ago.

The Clinton Administration said yesterday it would not "stand idly by" if Iraqi forces

suppressed the Kurdish people in the north, but played down their role in the reported fall of Degala and Koi Sanjak. General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, portrayed the fighting as one Kurdish faction trying to wrest territory from its rival. Saddam's troops were undoubtedly helping the KDP, but they amounted to just "a few hundred here and a few hundred there... certainly in the hundreds and not in the thousands".

Saddam wrecked a covert CIA operation to destabilise his regime when his forces seized Arbil. They ransacked the headquarters of the CIA-sponsored Iraqi National Congress, which the US set up to foment and co-ordinate opposition to Saddam. They killed more than 100 Iraqi and Kurdish members of the operation and captured hundreds of other suspects.

A handful of CIA officers based in the outskirts of Arbil escaped north to Turkey the day before Saddam's troops arrived, according to weekend reports in both *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

Tension has been steadily mounting between Turkey and Iraq because of Turkish plans to establish a security zone inside northern Iraq to guard against cross-border attacks by rebel Turkish Kurds of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) based in mountain fastnesses there.

"We will take every necessary action to prevent it [the buffer zone]," said Hamed Youssef Hammadi, head of the culture and information committee of Iraq's parliament. It was Baghdad's strongest warning yet to its neighbour. Iran also condemned the Turkish plans.

Turkey said yesterday it ultimately planned to monitor Kurdish rebel activity in northern Iraq with an electronic system, eliminating any need to keep troops there.



Kurdish Democratic Party fighters with Kalashnikovs and rocket-propelled grenades take up position on a hill near Degala, which is reported to have fallen to them yesterday with the assistance of Iraqi forces

Fragile rebel alliances fall prey to shifting sands of Gulf politics

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN KALE CHALAWAN

A WEEK of Baghdad offensives, American retaliation and fighting between Kurdish factions has destroyed what little remains of a precarious set of alliances in place in northern Iraq since the Gulf War.

In Kale Chalawan, a mountain fortress above Sulaimaniya, the principal city he still controls, Jalal Talabani is trying to regroup the troops of his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Having been driven from the administrative capital of Arbil 70 miles away, Mr Talabani now faces a set of fresh offensives by the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which is backed by Iraqi troops.

Mr Talabani referred scathingly to Massoud Barzani, the KDP leader, as little more than an "Iraqi mercenary".

Despite having lost Arbil, the PUK claimed a pyrrhic victory, having forced the KDP to abandon decades of opposition to Baghdad and to seek help from President Saddam Hussein. The PUK leader pledged to retake Arbil, although he acknowledged the difficulties of doing so while Iraqi government troops lingered outside the city.

Mr Talabani's words would carry more weight had he not also linked up with Iraqi forces to fight the KDP in a feud which lasted into the 1980s. Commentators also believe that Mr Talabani is paying the price for his failure to make peace with the KDP in the face of a common threat in Baghdad.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, allied pressure forced the KDP and PUK to end decades of feuding. In 1992 they staged joint elections to form an Iraqi Kurdish admin-

istration. Two years later the fighters of the two groups were at each other's throats.

Long regarded as being in alliance with Iran, Mr Talabani now praises America for trying to punish Saddam's forces. But he complained that, instead of attacking "the forces that committed the crimes in Arbil", the Americans pursued their own strategic interests by bombing air defences in the south.

Speaking at KDP headquarters in Salahuddin, north of Arbil, Mr Barzani was even more sceptical of US motives. "We would have been pleased if the raids had been for the sake of the Kurds instead of an election campaign." Although the KDP was once regarded as the Kurdish group most in line with American interests, those close to the party's leadership say that letters to the State Department, warning of a planned

PUK-Iranian offensive, were not even answered.

Mr Barzani, for years the leader of a guerrilla resistance, now presents himself as an Iraqi patriot defending his country against the external aggressor, Iran. This stand calls into question the entire premise of Operation Provide Comfort, the allied military action after the Gulf War to protect Iraqi Kurds from the Baghdad Government.

Senior KDP advisers still hope that Provide Comfort will remain, if only to protect them from the full consequences of their deal with Saddam. Sami Abdul Rahman, a senior Barzani aide, said the KDP was willing to accept a truce but the PUK could not do so for risk of offending Tehran. Mr Talabani said he would not negotiate with the KDP until it renounced its collaboration with Baghdad.

US pushes for Israel to resume Syria talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EFFORTS to secure the resumption of peace talks with Syria, stalled since February, are expected to dominate talks in Washington today between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Clinton, the second such meeting since Labour's defeat in Israel's May election.

On the eve of Mr Netanyahu's departure, Itamar Rabinowitz, until a week ago Israel's Ambassador in Washington, disclosed that the United States had been trying to revive the Syrian peace talks through secret contacts with Damascus.

"The administration has not abandoned hope of bringing about such a development in the next few weeks, or certainly the next few months," he said.

Early last month, Israel submitted a formal paper expressing its willingness to resume talks at the Wye Plantation in eastern Maryland. Recent Syrian moves have caused anxiety about President Assad's intentions and increased the sense of urgency for a resumption of talks.

As *The Jerusalem Post* commented: "The recent talk of crisis and even war with Syria show how little we still know about policies and objectives in Damascus. Missile tests, irregular movement of Syrian troops, and an increased US naval presence off the coast of Lebanon created an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty."

With the Israel-Palestinian talks now back on track, Israeli sources said the Prime Minister feels free to return his attention to the more difficult task of securing a substantive dialogue with Damascus. Recent statements by Mr Netanyahu and David Levy, his Foreign Minister, have made it clear that Israel is willing to negotiate over the Golan Heights—the return of which is demanded by Mr Assad as the *sine qua non* of resuming contact.

Turkish Cypriot soldier killed

Nicosia: A Turkish Cypriot soldier was shot dead yesterday near a British military base on the line dividing Cyprus (Michael Theodoulou writes).

Tension along the line has been running high since last month's anti-Turkish demonstrations resulted in the deaths of two Greek Cypriots. Turkey

said two Greek Cypriot civilians were responsible for the incident and the veteran Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, blamed the Greek Cypriot leadership for inciting the violence. "The blood of Turks has been drunk once again," he said.

The Greek Cypriot authorities announced there would be

an inquiry, but the Cyprus Government spokesman suggested Turkish agents provocateurs were to blame. The investigation into the violence was interrupted last night after an explosive device was found near the site of the shooting. A British Army bomb disposal squad made the device safe.

Kashmir poll starts peacefully

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BARAMULLA

INDIA's attempt to restore democracy to Kashmir after six years of direct rule has taken a stride forward in the first round of state elections. Intimidation of voters by government forces was minimal and grassroots enthusiasm was unexpectedly high — signs that Kashmir might have turned the corner towards eventual peace.

Saturday's voting, to be followed by three more rounds over the next month, was in a sensitive area around Baramulla, once the heart of the separatist uprising. Now it seems relatively peaceful.

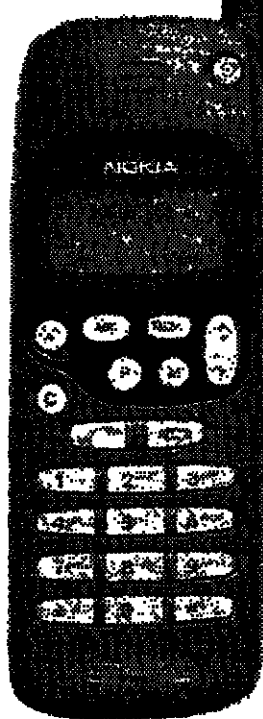
Polling stations brimmed with people waiting to vote under the watchful eye of security forces whose conduct was immeasurably better than in parliamentary elections in May. Then, they herded people to ballot boxes at gunpoint. This time they were more restrained, although there was some heavy-handed "encouragement" of voters to turn out.

Although in many ways a flawed poll, it will be widely seen as a successful move towards restoring credible local government nine years after the last state elections — which, like almost all the others in the past half century, was substantially rigged.

Allegations of "booth capturing" and rigging flowed all day between rival political parties on Saturday but there was no evidence of a co-ordinated official campaign. Who wins is not crucially important to the Indian Government, since the victor will be pro-Indian. All the separatist parties boycotted the election.

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Monetary union puts pressure on France to master market forces

Standing in a dusty village square in Poitou a week or two ago, I watched a peculiar, silent French ritual.

Into the square came a dozen weather-beaten country people holding a ring of string. Inside the string walked two butter-milk-colored cows.

The stately little procession walked round the square and out again without unfurling any banners or shouting a single slogan. I asked Mme Vachon, the ironmonger, what was going on. She shrugged and guessed that it was all to do with "mad cow" disease. She was right: the



cows were on their way to join the rest of the herd which nibbled the grass under the Eiffel Tower in protest at the suffering which the collapse of the beef market is causing

in the French countryside. The farmers think that the Government in Paris should rescue them from loss or bankruptcy. They believe that the State exists not merely to mitigate or minimise the suffering of those who lose but to master economic forces. Most French people think the same. France is well-placed to thrive in the global economy, but its beleaguered politicians are still expected to master these vast forces.

It is a tall order. The late President Mitterrand's answer was a franc as strong as the Deutschmark and a single currency in which France

would moderate the German central bank's power over the French economy.

The strength of the franc fort explains why there were fewer British tourists in France this summer. It also helps to explain why the French economy is so flat and is creating no new jobs.

The taboo on questioning the wisdom of monetary union remains strong in Paris, but is fraying in the face of terrifying unemployment figures. "Europe has broken down, but France keeps quiet," Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, said the other day. But the most eloquent

cries for help come from the MPs who face a general election in the spring of 1998.

Listen to Thierry Mariani, the Gaullist from the Vaucluse in Provence, driven frantic by the insistence of the government spin doctors that the present policies will work in time. "You don't get cured by just yelling. We're going to be cured! Whatever people say, I've never known a depressed climate like this. Around here, the National Front is at 25 per cent, the Socialists are climbing and people are fed up with us."

Because the French Government faces an autumn of discontent — truculent public sector unions meet tomorrow — and will have difficulty squeezing its deficit under the Maastricht limit, attention focuses on the next few months. Suppose the French economy can, by statistical sleight of hand, be slipped into monetary union.

M. Mariani was thinking further ahead, to the political costs of a permanently deflated economy under Frankfurt discipline. Meanwhile, the Germans worry about whether the system is disciplined enough. Two years ago, Karl Lamers,

a senior German MP, pointed out that the EU needed a far tighter political system if a single currency was to work.

Although he caused a storm elsewhere, he was really posing a question to French colleagues across the Rhine: do you really understand what you have agreed to do in a monetary union?

Herr Lamers never got a reply. More recently, Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, floated a narrower scheme which headed in the same direction. His "stability pact", which European finance ministers

discuss in Ireland later this month, proposes huge automatic fines on states using the euro which run excessive public deficits. If the pact had been in place in the past two years, France would have paid the equivalent of two percentage points of its gross domestic product and its ministers would have had a hard time convincing people that they were in charge of economic events. French voters might have realised that a single currency involves a loss of power and not a gain. Leading article, page 21

GEORGE BROCK

Pol Pot shunned as rebel faction opts for peace deal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE, CHECKPOINT SIX, THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER

A LEADER of the Khmer Rouge will today announce an extraordinary switch from Maoist communism to capitalism to open the final chapter in the bloody history of the movement.

A Khmer Rouge rebel faction is throwing open its secret base on Phnom Malai mountain for a press conference at which Ieng Sary, the renegade leader, will announce peace settlement terms with the Cambodian Government. It is being seen as one of the last acts in the long Indo-China wars, his aides said yesterday.

Officers in the Thai Army, which has helped to broker the deal between Ieng Sary's faction and Phnom Penh, say reporters will be taken across the border into Cambodia and flown to the base, where earlier this year guerrillas fought off a fierce air and ground assault by government troops, killing hundreds.

Cambodia's leaders said at the weekend that the Khmer Rouge rebels had agreed that all their forces would join the Government as "one state, one territory and one national administration".

In an interview here, Long Norin, a long-time senior member of the Khmer Rouge who is now with the rebels, said the last stumbling block

was the question of a royal pardon for Ieng Sary, who was sentenced to death in absentia for genocide by the Hanoi-backed regime, placed in power during the 1978 Vietnamese invasion that overthrew the murderous regime of Pol Pot.

Long Norin, the general secretary of the new Democratic National United Movement, said that the rebels hoped to form a party to enter Cambodia's political mainstream and contest elections in 1998. In an allusion to the issue that led to what he called "the uprising" last month, he said that it might be called the Ox-cart Party because Ta Mok, Pol Pot's lieutenant, had ordered that ox-carts and other personal property be collectivised.

The 58-year-old cadre was an aide to Ieng Sary since the rebel leader was Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in the 1975-78 Democratic Kampuchea Government, under whose rule a million Cambodians were killed.

He said Khmer Rouge hardliners under Pol Pot, such as Nuon Chea, "Brother No 2", Ta Mok, the one-legged general, and Son Sen, the defence chief, were isolated, doubting the loyalty of their

diminishing band of troops. Pol Pot, 68, is at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia, along with Khmer Rouge moderate officials headed by Khieu Samphan, the former Prime Minister, who Long Norin claims want to join the rebels in making peace with Phnom Penh.

Pol Pot, according to Long Norin, continues to want to "fight, fight, fight" government forces. He said that Ta Mok, Nuon Chea and Son Sen were marooned south of here after last month's revolt.

With Pol Pot having lost the former Khmer Rouge heartland from Phnom Malai to Pailin, with its gem mines and timber resources, and with a diminished fighting force, the movement has been gutted, analysts say.

Long Norin said that many Khmer Rouge were shocked when "Brother No 1" took a second wife after his first wife, sister of Ieng Sary's wife, went insane.

"For years Pol Pot urged his followers to take only one wife, but then he breached his own rule and lost the respect of many combatants," Long Norin said. He added, however, that the 67-year-old Ieng Sary's break with his brother-in-law came over political, not personal, issues.

Racists boo black winner of Miss Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE election of a black girl as Miss Italy was hailed yesterday as an historic victory for race relations in Italy. However, Denny Mendez, 18, was booed and whistled by what the contest organisers described as "an unrepresentative minority" in the audience, and the choice appeared to have stirred up further controversy rather than resolved it.

The Miss Italy competition, normally a bland and old-fashioned beauty contest, became politically charged last week when Bob Krieger, a fashion photographer, was expelled from the jury for saying that "a black girl cannot possibly become Miss Italy". He said Italian women were either white skinned or "Mediterranean types".

Members of the audience made clear their preference for Maria Mazza, a brunette from Naples who came third, and barracked Signorina Mendez. Votes phoned in by television viewers were overwhelmingly in favour of Signorina Mendez, who came to Tuscany from the Dominican Republic five years ago when her mother married an Italian.

Signorina Mendez, clearly overcome, said she thought her victory "shows that Italy is changing". She said she had not minded the booing "because I feel Italian".



Denny Mendez, who left the Dominican Republic five years ago, breaks down after she is crowned Miss Italy. The contest turned into a test case over attitudes to race

Thyssens accuse son over fortune

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A DISPUTE simmering within one of Europe's richest families erupted into the open yesterday when Carmen Cervera, the flamboyant fourth wife of Baron Hans-Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, accused her husband's eldest son from a previous marriage of "appropriating \$350 million (£225 million)" from his father's coffers.

The Spanish-born Baroness Thyssen, a former beauty queen, made the accusation against Georg Heinrich Thyssen in an interview with the Madrid newspaper ABC. The Baron, who was also present, supported his wife's allegations, adding several bitter interjections of his own.

The story has all the trappings of a glossy soap opera: Middle European aristocracy, an ailing patriarch, his glamorous and much younger wife, immense wealth and an allegedly thankless child.

A serious stroke suffered in 1994 caused the Baron to hand over charge of the Thyssen Group — which owns, among other concerns, the Heineken breweries — to his oldest son Georg, with an arrangement for monies to be paid to the father and family regularly. According to the Baroness, however, Georg has failed to make the payments.

Baron Thyssen said: "It was a bad idea to hand over charge to him. It is a great disappointment when your own son wants to usurp your business and to take advantage of your circumstances."

The Baroness also accuses the son of being hostile to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid, from whose governing board Georg was recently dismissed.



Baroness Thyssen made the family dispute public

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-minister is charged over killing

Brussels: Alain van der Biest, 53, a former Belgian minister, has been charged with killing André Coels, a former deputy Prime Minister, the prosecutor's office said.

Van der Biest is the fifth person to be charged over the murder; his former secretary, Richard Taxquet, has also been indicted. The others are Carlo Todarello, Cosimo Solazzo and Domenico Castellino, all relatives or associates of Mr Taxquet. Mr Coels, a former Socialist Party chief, was shot dead on July 18, 1991. (AFP)

Russians leave

Moscow: The first contingent of thousands of Russian troops began pulling out of Chechnya yesterday in the clearest signal yet that a week-old peace deal with Chechen rebels is being carried out.

Islands protest

Hong Kong: Thousands of Hong Kong Chinese marched and carried banners to protest against Japan's claim to the Diaoyu islands, north of Taiwan, called the Senkakus by the Japanese. (AP)

Wedding deaths

Hyderabad: Thirty-five people drowned when an overcrowded lorry carrying an Indian wedding party careered off a bridge at Cuddapah and plunged into a flood-swollen river. (Reuters)

Aid workers die

Geneva: The Red Cross has suspended its operation for Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaïre for a week after two of its workers were killed and 34 wounded when a landmine blew up their bus. (AFP)

Moi pardon

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya, at a mass rally, pardoned two self-confessed guerrillas who asked for his forgiveness after saying they had been trained to overthrow his Government. (Reuters)

UN aid team reaches Liberian 'hell' town

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

A UNITED NATIONS aid agency said yesterday it would deliver the first food for eight months today to the besieged town of Tubmanburg in western Liberia where relief workers found "a living hell" of starving people.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said a team that reached the jungle town at the weekend believed more than half its estimated 35,000 inhabitants were suffering from extreme hunger.

Tarek Elguindi, the WFP's Liberia director, said after visiting the town, 45 miles northwest of Monrovia, the capital: "The children have swollen bellies, their eyes are

swollen, their skin is cracked and in some cases the flesh on the feet has fallen off."

The Rome-based WFP and other aid agencies took advantage of peace moves by rival factions in Liberia's conflict to enter Tubmanburg, which had been cut off by fighting since February. "I've never seen such a massive number of hungry people," Mr Elguindi said. "When I saw the situation, I started to cry."

There has been civil war in Liberia since 1989, and more than 150,000 people have died. Mr Elguindi said other areas of the country could be enduring similar conditions to Tubmanburg.

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At war over the field of genes

American maize, genetically modified so that it is pest-resistant, could have damaging human and environmental effects, claims Europe. Nigel Hawkes reports

The first big argument over a genetically engineered crop is brewing. It has split the European Community, with Britain voting against its approval. If the argument is not quickly resolved, it could even lead to a trade war between Europe and the US. The product is maize — what the Americans call corn, genetically modified so that it is resistant to a common pest, the European corn-borer.

Every year, say Ciba Seeds who have developed the new variety, about 7 per cent of the world's maize is lost to the corn-borer, a voracious creature which eats its way through the stalks of the crop. Maize is one of the world's biggest crops, with production this year expected to reach 567 million tonnes. The great bulk goes to feed animals, with about a fifth going into a variety of human foods.

The argument is not over the use of processed maize in human or animal food, since processing destroys the genes at the centre of the issue. But the European position, if maintained, would prevent the importation of unprocessed maize, and the sale of the genetically-modified seed for planting in Europe.

Ciba's new maize defeats the corn-borer by incorporating a gene originally discovered in a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The gene makes a protein which is toxic to the larvae of the corn-borer, but not to other insects. These larvae, to their cost, possess an enzyme in their stomachs which cleaves the protein in a particular way to release the toxin.

Since 1950 the *Bt* protein has been widely used as a spray against the corn-borer, and is benign enough to be approved for use even by organic farmers. But spraying it in the few days that elapse between the emergence of the larvae and their disappearance into the stems of the plants calls for brilliant timing: too late and they are already inside and

out of danger. So Ciba Seeds decided to incorporate the gene into the maize itself. They used a "gene gun" — a technique in which the DNA is coated on to tiny particles which are then fired into the plant cells. This approach works, but in only a tiny minority of the cells — according to Dr Elke Jarchow of Ciba-Geigy, about one in 100,000 is



Maize: at risk from the corn-borer

likely to take up the gene.

This creates two problems. First, a huge amount of the gene is needed, which means multiplying it up by growing it in bacteria. To find which bacteria have taken up the gene, a second, "marker" gene is attached. This is a gene which confers resistance to the antibiotic ampicillin.

The bacteria which have taken up the genes can then be identified by treating the whole batch with ampicillin — those that survive the antibiotic have taken up both the marker and the *Bt* gene.

Once the gene has been multiplied, it is introduced by the gene gun into the plant cells. But since only one cell in 100,000 takes it up, a technique is needed to work out which it is. "Otherwise," says Dr Jarchow, "we would need to grow

100,000 plants just to find the one that is resistant to the corn-borer, and that isn't practicable."

For this, a second marker gene is used, this time one that confers resistance to a common class of pesticides called glufosinates. This makes it possible to identify the cells containing the gene by treating the whole batch with the pesticide and seeing which survive. The result is a maize with three foreign genes: the *Bt* gene, the ampicillin-resistance gene, and the glufosinate-resistance gene. It is, says Dr Jarchow, "a breakthrough in maize seed development".

But is it safe? Britain's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes thought not, arguing that the presence of a gene carrying resistance to beta-lactam antibiotics such as ampicillin posed "an unacceptable risk". The fear is that the gene might transfer to the gut bacteria of animals which ate the unprocessed maize, and from there get into human beings.

Sweden, Denmark and Austria had different objections, fearing that the modified plants would have damaging environmental effects. But unlike the British committee, the Europeans focused on the herbicide-resistant gene.

The French thought the advantages of a clean crop and better yields outweighed any possible drawbacks. When it came to a vote in the Council of Environmental Ministers on June 26, the modified maize failed to win even a qualified majority.

Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Austria voted against. Germany, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg abstained. France, Finland, Belgium, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain voted in favour.

This left Europe in a dilemma, as the product has already been approved in the US and Canada.



An American maize field — but the sale of its genetically modified crop in Europe could break EU rules and start a trade war

"Our expert committees looked very carefully at the issues and gave the plant a 100 per cent bill of health," an official at the US Embassy in London said. "None of the questions raised in Europe has caused us to reconsider."

The first US maize crop which includes some genetically modified plants is about to be harvested. There is no possibility of segregating the modified crop from the rest. According to Ciba Seeds, about 0.6 per cent of the 238 million tonnes of maize the US expects to harvest this year will be the genetically

modified variety. And it will expect to get free access to the European market for this crop; last year it sold \$500 million worth of maize to Europe as animal feed, primarily to Spain and Portugal.

Faced with the impasse, the European Commission has asked three scientific committees to look at the evidence. These committees — on animal nutrition, food, and pesticides — are expected to take some time to complete their deliberations. Meanwhile any importation of the maize would be a breach of EU rules, and the US and the EU

"would be entering into an area of trade disagreement," a Commission spokesman said last week.

Ciba argues that the objections raised in Europe are all erroneous. "We looked carefully to make sure that we weren't putting a valuable antibiotic at risk by including the antibiotic-resistance gene," says Dr Jarchow. "We concluded we weren't, and American and Canadian experts agree. There is no evidence that a gene can jump from a plant to a gut bacterium in the stomach of an animal. We feel very certain that it is safe."

The UK's experts disagree, as does the pressure group Genetics Forum. "We urged the British Government to oppose the application and stick to the scientific advice they were given," says Julie Sheppard, the forum's spokeswoman. "We are delighted that they did." Whether that opposition can be sustained in the face of a fierce onslaught from the US remains to be seen. Ciba's product may be a gene too far for the Europeans, but the issue is not going to disappear. Too much money rests on the outcome.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science, which meets this week in Birmingham, will be loud with the sound of lamentation over the neglect of science in Britain. It has become an article of faith that this neglect is long-standing and cultural, and that we are now paying the price in industrial competitiveness.

So widely accepted has this view become that a contrary voice is welcome. Dr David Edgerton, Reader in the History of Technology at Imperial College, London, has provided a radically different version of history. *Science, Technology and the British Industrial 'Decline' 1870-1970* takes a closer look at Britain's history and comes up with some surprising conclusions.

The first error the "declinist" historians make, he argues, is to conflate relative decline with doing badly or

The idea that British industry has ignored science is under attack

Why neglect may be a myth

with failure. An economy that was once by far the largest in the world is certain to decline in relative terms as others begin to grow. In absolute terms, Britain's economy has declined only for brief periods, as for example 1929-32 or 1979-81.

"Most, though not all, of the relative decline, as measured in the conventional way, is not due to British failings," he concludes. What about the charge that Britain has consistently underrated the importance of science and technology since the 1870s, made in Martin



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

Weiner's *English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit*? Dr Edgerton's figures suggest, by contrast, that "British higher education, the British State, and British industry were, if anything, peculiarly scientific and technological". He shows that

Britain produced more scientists and engineers per capita than any other major capitalist country during the 1950s and 1960s. British industry spent more of its own money on research and development than German and Japanese industry until the late 1960s, and Britain patented more technologies in the US than Germany until the late 1950s.

As for the boardrooms, generally believed to have been bereft of engineers, he shows this to be another myth. He asserts, that by 1950 some 20 per cent of the senior men in British manufacturing had university-level scientific or technical education, while only 9.5 per cent were accountants. As for spending on research and development, Britain in fact spent more than competitors doing relatively better. In the 1960s Germany was wealthier, but did less R & D; France also overtook Britain, but doing even less R & D. The evidence is that Britain spent more on R & D than its wealth indicated.

If the commonly held ideas are false, why are they so

firmer fixed in so many people's minds? Dr Edgerton ventures the paradoxical explanation that these

"declinist" ideas are often put forward by scientists and engineers, and it is because of the high esteem in which such people are held that they are taken seriously.

In other words, the very hold that these ideas have disproves them.

Science, Technology and the British Industrial 'Decline' 1870-1970, Cambridge University Press, £17.95.

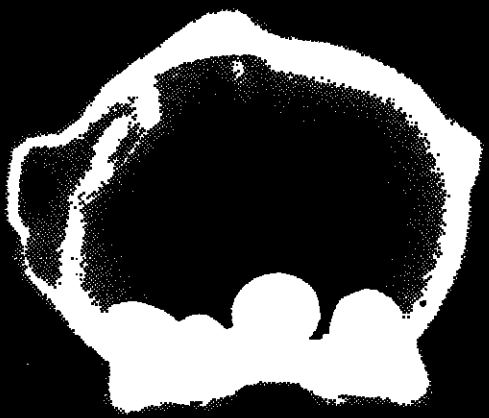


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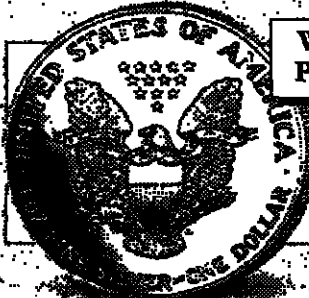


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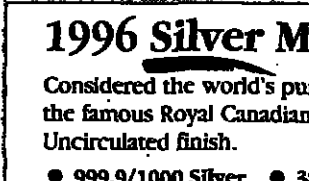


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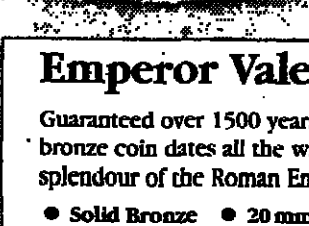


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Robert Runcie — Day Two: Humphrey Carpenter reveals that the Archbishop knew about



"We thought it was an arranged marriage, but my own view was... she'll grow into it."



Dr Runcie told the Princess: "Don't worry about religious vocabulary... You may have more spiritual insight than your cerebrally inclined husband."

'I think Charles had already given up on the Church'

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My first conversation with Robert Runcie about the royal marriage was prompted by George Austin, Archdeacon of York, saying that Prince Charles should not succeed to the throne — or at least become head of the Church of England — if (as it was then beginning to seem) he had committed adultery with Camilla Parker Bowles.

Runcie: "In my view, it's a terrible reflection on the state of public life that someone like Austin — who was in the St Albans diocese when I was bishop — should become a household name in the current debate about the state of the monarchy. I was indiscreet about it at Jeffrey Archer's party last week. There was a man with whom I let off steam about the difficulties of the Prince of Wales and then I saw him go off and start talking to Charles Moore [of *The Daily Telegraph*]. He said: 'What do you think about it?' And I said: 'It depends whether the Prince wins his way with the British people over the next five to ten years. Also, it would quite help if he loved the Church of England a bit more.'

Carpenter: "You don't think he does?"

Runcie: "That's one of the things that I found disappointing — that he was so disenchanted with it. But he didn't have a consistent view, because he would go in with the *Spectator* gang on 'the lovely language of the Prayer Book', but then he would say, 'Instead of interfering with politics, the Church should be creating centres of healing in the inner cities — ought to be bringing together the spiritual, the intellectual and the architectural.' But these were only conversations in passing, not seriously sustained argument. He would, under pressure, respond to being asked to do something about my 'urban priority areas' — go and open a jobcentre. But I think he'd given up on the Church of England before I arrived."

Carpenter: "Why?"

Runcie: "I don't know, because he was cultivated by John Andrew [chaplain to Michael Ramsey], and was confirmed by Michael Ramsey, and had a sort of relationship with him was friendly, but I couldn't get much in depth out of it. When he came to Lambeth for his pre-marriage talk, I remember he said in a kind of nostalgic way 'I came and

served here sometimes'. But it was rather something that had passed away. And I think he was deeply into the Laurens van der Post spirituality. When it came to his concern to do something about the state of the country, I don't think he took the Church of England very seriously. One of the difficulties for me was that, when things began to go wrong in the marriage — when things were very unhappy for Diana — he invited me to lunch with her."

Carpenter: "With him as well?"

Runcie: "With him as well. On the basis of it's been rather a lot for Diana, because religion hasn't stuck much with her. And we feel we ought to mention it to you, because you married us. And the arrangement that he thought was good was that I should see her from time to time. She was happy about this. I had her private telephone number, and she had mine. And I then gave her what amounted to two or three not very successful confirmation talks. That's what he thought she needed: a bit of instruction."

Carpenter: "Is it?"

Runcie: "Well, it can be. Very competitive. I don't know what will become of her. Sad, really, and I feel a desire to support her."

What I quickly saw she needed was some encouragement and some 'Are you all right, girl?' When you began on abstract ideas, you could see her eyes clouding over, her eyelids became heavy. But it was a matter of encouraging her through talk about people, about personalities. And she was very receptive to that. For example, she would always write a very prompt and thoughtful thank-you letter — she had that sort of gift. But they were difficult times. About a year after this I was at some state banquet, and I said, 'How goes it?' And she said, 'Well, I'm still as thick as a plank up here, tapping her forehead, but I've really got it down here now, tapping her midriff.'

Carpenter: "Got more guts?"

Runcie: "Got more guts. And the big moment was when she went on her first tour with him. And I remember having one of my sessions with her when they were packing. I never saw him

THE ROYAL FAMILY

'For the Royal Family, survival is the priority'

again in relation to Diana — all my relationship with him was inner cities or official things; I could never get him on to Diana again."

Carpenter: "Did you try?"

Runcie: "Not really hard. Diana felt she had a separate relationship with me, because I took her brother Charlie's wedding, and baptised his children as well as hers. And I became, and remain a friend of Frances Shand-Kydd, her mother, who is really rather an underestimated person. So I'm in a way, I suppose, associated with that camp. Then her grandmother I knew very well, Ruth Feroz, and Ruth used to see me, and I felt — typical Runcie — on both sides, because Ruth was very distressed with Diana's behaviour. Ruth was a gentle and lovely person, a great encourager of music, and she was totally and wholly a Charles person, because she'd seen him grow up, loved him like all the women of the court do, and regarded Diana as an actress, a schemer — all of which is true, of course."

Carpenter: "Is it?"

Runcie: "Well, it can be. Very competitive. I don't know what will become of her. Sad, really, and I feel a desire to support her."

Carpenter: "When the stuff about the marriage began to come in the press, did it seem familiar to you? Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles?"

Runcie: "Yes."

Carpenter: "You knew about that already?"

Runcie: "I knew about that already, yes. That was what worried Ruth Feroz, about his needing a woman to love and be cared for by. And also that Diana would never be under control until she fell in love with someone."

Carpenter: "Were you nervous about the marriage from the start?"

Runcie: "I remember Richard Chartres (now Bishop of London) — a very observant man — when they came to see me for the first time, and there was general conversation, with Richard present, about the arrangements and things. Richard said to me, 'He's seriously depressed. You can tell from his voice.' We thought it was an arranged marriage, but my own view was 'They're a nice couple, and she'll grow into it. They weren't casual about their preparation for marriage: I remember we had a private Communion service together, and Charles encouraged her a lot when she looked a little anxious and wan about it.'

"But she was very tender, very unformed. And yet had a sort of shrewdness, and was tremendously observant, always very observant of anything about you. I used to go and see her at Kensington Palace and she'd see me to the

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Camilla and tried to support Diana; plus the tense relationship with Margaret Thatcher



At moments of high drama "the Queen always went out of her way to encourage"

door, and I opened the door of the car and a packet of cigarettes fell out, and she said, 'Oh, you have a bag between sessions, do you?' And she came to Canterbury once, and she wrote to somebody and said she'd been to lunch with me and 'guess what, we had grilled sole!'

"Charles is highly sensitive — that's what everybody says. I could quote so many examples of personal letters, or hidden acts of kindness to individuals in need, or unglamorous but worthwhile causes. But he is a mass of contradictions. He's punctilious in being Colonel-in-Chief of the Welsh Guards, but he also wants to be friends with the Greenham women. He's on about the grandeur of our cathedrals and the epic language of the Prayer Book, but he wants to be exploring Hinduism with people in inner cities."

"He hunts regularly, but is a great man about the environment. So that the public don't really know where they are. There are people who have all sorts of conspiracy theories. The most amazing was that Diana would become a Roman Catholic and lead the return of the Stuart royal house!"

"The person I do admire is the Queen. She's the only person who has the ability to rise above it. I don't fully understand her, but that's part of her secret. At moments of either high drama or pressure on me, like the papal visit or the coal miners' strike, she always went out of her way to encourage — it may have been indirectly, by an invitation to do something; it may have been by a chance word. But I've always felt that she regarded it as part of her responsibility, though he was never to be regarded as a member of the court or a private chaplain, to encourage the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to listen to what he had to say — to ask him his opinion about things. Now, I never managed to strike that sort of relationship with

the Prince of Wales. "It's a strange family, the Royal Family, because conversations aren't followed up. I think it's also that survival is the overarching priority, and you have to prove yourself as a safe person with whom to be a friend, not a man who boasts about his position with them."

Carpenter: "But the Queen has to have some responsibility for their appalling public image?"

Runcie: "When I said I admired her, I meant that she managed to combine the mystique and informality which sprang from her own deep sense of vocation. This meant you knew where you were, even though you were often uncomfortable, because her shyness makes it hard to relax in her presence. She creates a feeling of uncertainty. I remember the first time I met Diana was when I sat between the Queen and her at the Privy Council meeting summoned to confirm the engagement. Diana was terrified of her. She'd obviously

been told it was very important that she made it, so to speak, and she was anxious to make sure that if I ought to have been talking to the Queen, I wasn't talking to her. They're people of formal personal piety, of course, people who intercede, who say their nightly prayers. Diana said she found that this was something that Charles couldn't share. She used to say to me, 'He's very deep. Charles' — this is the little girl talking in the early days — and Charles had said I like intercession a great deal, and there's always new things to pray about, so it's very difficult, your intercession list gets longer and longer. My line was to get on her side, under her skin a bit, really, and say 'Don't worry about all this religious vocabulary to start with. You may have more spiritual insight than your cerebrally inclined husband. The trouble is that you believe that to be religious you have to be capable of handling ideas,

religious ideas. But that's not necessarily true at all. The inarticulate is just as valuable in the eyes of God as the articulate, maybe more so. I have a wife who is very bright, to my mind, but she's not an ideas woman — she hates an idea when she sees one."

Carpenter: "You didn't get involved, I imagine, in the Andrew-Sarah marriage?"

Runcie: "We got on rather well with Sarah, and she was very open about it all. I remember having tea with her and the children in a very lofty corner of Buckingham Palace where she had a flat, and she'd just come back from some public engagement, and was trying to live in that echoing place, and I felt sympathy with her. She was the one who was most uninhibited about calling you by your Christian name, and embracing you and all that sort of thing. And she said 'I just can't take the stiff upper lip syndrome. And the you-are-never-ill syndrome. And that's what's got Diana."

Edited extracts from Robert Runcie: *The Reluctant Archbishop*, by Humphrey Carpenter, published next month by Hodder and Stoughton, £20. ©1996 Humphrey Carpenter



The Duchess was "uninhibited about using your Christian name, and embracing you"

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TOMORROW

Life with 'Lindy'

Mrs Runcie is tough-minded and not afraid to express herself, even if it means

'I admire her, but it's like sitting next to electricity'

MARGARET THATCHER



"We ex's must stick together," Mrs Thatcher said at his farewell

thought Thatcher had had any doubts about appointing Runcie.

"I should have thought she must have had. They were not compatible figures in any way at all. One has to remember that she has little sense of humour, and therefore if you have a sense of humour, you are always slightly suspect with her. Of course, if you're the Archbishop and have a sense of humour, that's even more the case. If she saw Bob and me standing together and laughing — which we frequently did — I think she thought, 'This mafia, what are they up to?'

I remarked that Runcie is more conservative than he was popularly supposed to be. 'Well, he might be now,' replied Whitelaw, 'but he wasn't when Margaret was in power. She thought he was a liberal. She had this great thing of 'if you're not for me, you're against me'. They got on perfectly well when they met, but

then she had scrupulously good manners, and was always polite, even though she might be cursing away in the background about some of the things he'd produced."

When I spoke to Lady Thatcher she was resolutely circumspect.

Thatcher: "I don't want to be anything other than very nice about him. He's a very nice man. We always had very good relations. I don't remember him at Oxford."

Carpenter: "You don't remember him there at all?"

Thatcher: "No, but certainly from the conversations which I've had with him, he's a very, very good mind and an extremely — well, as you'd expect from an Archbishop of Canterbury — a very nice man. A very modest man."

Carpenter: "I noticed you didn't mention him in your memoirs."

Thatcher: "No, well, there were no great Church things during my time."

Carpenter: "Did you not feel any sense of the Church being in opposition to you, when the press were making out that this was the case?"

Thatcher: "The press sometimes will make out that that's the case. Then at other times they'll say that the Church of England is the Conservative Party at prayer."

Carpenter: "Could I ask you about the Falklands service of thanksgiving, in July 1982? You'll remember that Lord Runcie's sermon referred to the losses of the Argentinians as well as the British, and he called war 'detestable'. I think you congratulated him afterwards — he says, 'She didn't seem anything other than congratulatory to me' — but it is also said that you did feel angry about the sermon. Did you feel that the emphasis was wrong, in the service and the sermon?"

Thatcher: "I felt that we didn't give, perhaps, sufficient recognition to all of those without whose sacrifice ... the Falklands would not be free. And I must say that I do think it is right to make it clear that an aggressor shall never be appeased. Never!"

As Prime Minister, Thatcher was more forthright in her criticisms. After the Falklands service her husband, chatting and drinking with MPs on the House of Commons terrace, was said to have told them: "The boss was angry enough this morning. Now she is spitting blood."

Several Tory MPs wrote to Runcie to complain that the service was inappropriate, and the following Sunday, August 1, 1982, the Rev Dr Edward Norman, Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge, and a well known right-wing commentator on public affairs, contributed an article to *The Sunday Telegraph* in which he alleged that Runcie's sermon had been a "calculated balancing act" designed to appease those liberals in the Church of England whose "hatred of 'Thatcherite' Conservatism" blinded them to the necessity of the Falklands War.

One of the last Runcie-Thatcher encounters was at his farewell party [Thatcher's first appearance at Downing Street since her deposition]. I asked him how she had behaved. "The stuffing seemed to have gone out of her a bit," Runcie answered. "She said to me: 'We ex's must stick together.' One almost feels sorry for her. But one has so many feelings about her."

He recalled meeting Thatcher at a Lambeth reception: "I said: 'Prime Minister, this is Mother Frances, who has just opened the first hospice for children.' And you'd think Mrs T would have wanted to ask her something about it. But no, she looked Frances Dominica in the eye and said firmly: 'Now, the thing about hospices is ... as if she knew more about them than anyone in the world.'"

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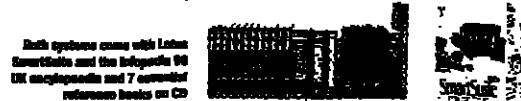


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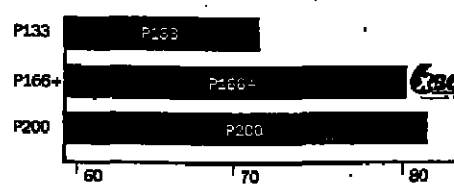
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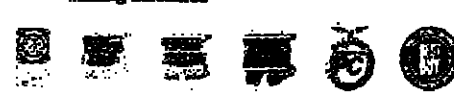
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OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA 1

The British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China* show opens on Friday. Today Richard Cork begins a daily series highlighting the exhibition's glories



STANDING FIGURE

OF all the discoveries made by Chinese archaeologists over the past decade, this is the most astonishing. Most of the excavated sculptures turned out to be modest in size, but *Standing Figure* is truly monumental. So big, in fact, that it was broken at the waist before burial at Sanxingdui in Sichuan province. Made in bronze around 1200 BC, the statue clearly represents a man of importance. Perhaps he is a priest or shaman, for his enormous slanting eyes suggest great spiritual power.

Although his body is surprisingly slim, and sheathed in a tight garment festooned with fine patterns, the figure's hands are immense. Curving at the end of two outstretched arms, they must once have gripped an object of great value, perhaps one of the many elephant tusks found smashed in the same burial pit. After all, the man stands on an elaborate base supported by four elephant heads. Each of their trunks is curled up, contributing to the powerful, flowing rhythm of the entire sculpture.

Despite his aloofness, the figure is barefoot. This touch of informality adds to his appeal, and may indicate that he inhabited a temple where shoes were forbidden. At all events he is a mesmerising presence, notable for magisterial poise.

● *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by The Times, opens at the British Museum on Friday and continues to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-420 0000

TOMORROW: Richard Cork reviews the whole exhibition

As Ben Elton's cinema satire *Popcorn* goes on stage, Geoff Brown catches a whiff of hypocrisy

Yesterday Ben Elton debated the relationship between violence on the screen and violence on the streets in BBC1's Sunday lunchtime programme *Thinktank*. Fair enough: he has written a best-selling novel on the subject, *Popcorn*, a stage version of which opens at the Nottingham Playhouse on Thursday, only five weeks after the book appeared in print.

The eerie thing is that taking part in such a TV debate is exactly what Bruce Delamitri, the fictional hero of Elton's *Popcorn*, would do.

You all know Bruce Delamitri. He's Quentin Tarantino's dead ringer. He's the bumptious film director of *Ordinary Americans*, one of those Post-Modern movie bloodbaths dripping with irony and nonchalance. Then on Oscar night, the film becomes real. Delamitri's Beverly Hills palace is invaded by the "mall murderers", Wayne and Scout, great admirers of *Ordinary Americans*, two serial maniacs on a killing spree.

Delamitri lives and almost dies on camera. On the morning of the Oscar ceremony he appears on the TV show *Coffee Time* with hosts Oliver and Dale, facing questions about the mall murderers and copycat violence, and landing them with a sneer. "Copycat killing? Please! I mean, come on. The whole thing's a media beat-up, the story du jour. Four networks in search of a controversy."

At the end of the day, having won the Best Director Oscar, having told Oliver and Dale that artists reflect, not create society, he is trapped in his house with the killers, blood and corpses smeared over the walls and a live TV feed that broadcasts the drama nationwide—at least until the ratings fall.

Popcorn may very well make effective theatre. Elton first wrote the novel as a play, and the book would only be improved by shaving away the repetitive paragraphs that connect the characters' dialogue. But the whole *Popcorn* phenomenon prompts interesting questions about Elton's understanding of the Hollywood scene and his attitude towards the movies that fuel his satire, such as Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* or Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*.

You can tell by the novel's use of language how much Elton enjoys these movies and the culture that surrounds them. At least in part. He may decry what Tarantino's breed of characters do, shooting people without demur, but he clearly loves what they say. Their talk is colourful, terse and brutal, and Elton pants hard to reproduce it, down to the last insult and four-letter word. The English language can look so grey next to the American vernacular. This is no recent phenomenon. Put Agatha Christie next to Raymond Chandler: whose one-liners do you remember?

Almost every page of *Popcorn* displays this linguistic divide. Once



The violence of Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* caused outrage. But such films account for a tiny percentage of Hollywood's output

Is Hollywood really so bad?

Elton's characters stop firing verbal salvos, the author sinks back into bad English habits. He becomes straitlaced and wordy. I dip into the book at random: "Brooke could only stare. It would have taken a less astute judge of character than she to have failed to notice that Wayne was unpredictable."

No glaring faults of grammar here. But how cumbersome! How dull! The curse of good English breeding.

Such stodgy writing only spotlights the lure of American popular culture in Britain. American movies dominate our cinemas for a reason. For better or worse, audiences like what they offer: their speed, their vibrancy, their escapism. They don't want to see this week's new release *Hollow Reed*, however much they may learn in the process about child

abuse in middle-class Bath. They want to watch *Twister* and see a tornado rip across America.

On the surface Elton is pillorying American popular culture in *Popcorn*. Deep down he lusts for its dynamism—and he feeds off the media just as much as his fictional protagonist Bruce Delamitri.

A part from not being 100 per cent honest, Elton is also not 100 per cent original. Having a Tarantino-esque director face the consequences of his violent films on his home turf may provide a neat situation, highly suitable for stage treatment. But Elton's satire does nothing to avoid the obvious. The old targets for attack are wheeled on again: the ever-obliging media circus, New Age airheads, the scapegoat culture that allows every-

one to place the blame for their actions elsewhere.

Elton's reading of Hollywood is also somewhat askew. In the past few years, selected films with a high violence quotient have drawn fire from tabloid editors, excitable MPs, Republican presidential hopefuls, parents' groups—all people with axes to grind and tubs to thump. But the horrid excesses of *Natural Born Killers* or the gratuitous nastiness of *Money Train* (a film that certainly inspired copycat crime and left one subway employee dead) must be placed in perspective.

A few such movies get all the publicity and raise all the hackles. Meanwhile, week after week, cinema trot out bland films about dolphins or warm-hearted idiots or Jane Austen's Regency wonder-

land. Comedies and dramas regularly pull back from the edge their material is leading them to, while the dictates of political correctness sap the fibre of too many characters, black and white. Animated films and adaptations of children's classics have made a big comeback. The director Alfonso Arau declares that his planned sequel to *The Wild Bunch*, called *The Greasers*, will be less, not more, combustible than Peckinpah's original, the most violent film of 1969.

Some of this may be Hollywood playing safe, but much of the new regard for what you might almost call family values comes from audience research and the evidence of box-office takings.

You would not guess any of this from *Popcorn*. True, a satirist needs selective vision to do the job. But as *Popcorn* takes to the stage—who knows, the screen may be next—it's as well to remember the larger picture as the bodies drop in Beverly Hills, the language hots up and a decapitated head is prettily speared on a lava lamp.

● *Popcorn* the play runs at the Nottingham Playhouse from Thursday to October 12 (0115-541 9419) and at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, from October 15 to November 9 (0115-244 2111). *Popcorn* the novel is published by Simon & Schuster, price £2.99

BBC PROMS: John Allison on two nights of Valery Gergiev and the Rotterdam Philharmonic

Valery Gergiev came to his belated Proms debut with his Kirov forces, but as principal conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Rotterdam was one of his first openings in the West, and though he is now courted by the world's most glamorous musical organisations, he has remained faithful to old friends. The Rotterdammers may not be a front-rank band, but these two programmes, a typical Gergiev mix of French and Russian music, disclosed their strengths.

Debussy was featured in both concerts, allowing the orchestra to show off colourful winds and refined strings. But Gergiev's interpretations, based on an obvious love for this music, were at times a little too loving: especially in his surging, emotional account of *La Mer* a little more refinement and "aristocratic"

Faithful to old friends

poise might have produced less cloying results.

Not least because of his Parisian connections, Stravinsky made an apt coupling in both programmes. But it is his special place in St Petersburg's musical heritage that Gergiev understands above all, and Friday's exciting performance of *The Firebird* revealed the heavy influence of Rimsky-Korsakov. Gergiev's great feeling for the fairy-tales in which it is based meant that he brought a gallery of characters to life more than usual in the concert hall, the score sounded

like the "dance" music it is.

Saturday's encore made a little piece of history: Stravinsky's orchestration of Chopin's *Waltz brillante*, arranged for a Ballet Russes production of *Les Sylphides*, was given its first performance in more than 70 years. It is Stravinsky in fairground mode, but the crisply swirling waltz cleansed the palate after *La Mer*.

In a pair of his works, Prokofiev was less evenly served. But Saturday brought a splendid performance of the rare Sixth Symphony. It is a darkly ambiguous piece, and the players seemed to relish its searing, somewhat disturbing lyricism. Gergiev turned the Largo into a sustained outpouring of emotion. The big disappointment was Alexander Toradze's account of the Second Piano Concerto: he had all the notes in this most brutal of concertos, though spoilt them with his anti-

musical Russian-bear style of pianism. Accompanied by animal-like groans, he threw himself at the piano, but bodily weight is no substitute for true keyboard power.

Standing apart in these neatly balanced programmes was Mussorgsky's song cycle *The Nursery*. Hardly a bar of

the composer has not been orchestrated by another hand, but Edison Denisov's scoring is sparse and true to the spirit of the original. The young Russian soprano Anna Netrebko's small, perfectly focused voice was ideal in these songs, which she sang with mischievous relish.

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Angling for that missing magic

BRITISH Youth Opera has returned to the boards with two shows for its tenth anniversary season. Of the two, Britten's *Albert Herring* had the stronger production, musical direction and voices. Jamie Hayes activated the human drama efficiently enough, with an arty freeze-frame or two as the curtain rose on each scene but it takes a keener eye than his to flesh out the village characters into more than two dimensions, and the use of laboured Suffolk accents always seems to pinion them into caricature. Albert himself (Henry Moss) had a robust enough tenor to turn on a virtuoso performance and Timothy Dean drew lively, if at times ragged, character from the pit.

The two best voices of the evening were from the Royal

Opera
**Albert Herring/
The Magic Flute**
Wimbledon Theatre

Northern College stable: Carl Searle's Florence Pike ruled the roost in rich, well-focused voice. David Kempster as a strutting bully-boy of a Sid could well go on to join *Peter Grimes* as Balstrode before too long.

The *Flute* was less than magic. On a sweeping grey arc of a jetty, Stuart Maunders' production plodded forward, bereft of vision or motivating energy. Sarastro's temple seemed to be made of segments of a chooc-

late orange: his Brotherhood hung around looking rather like a team of bell-boys awaiting their orders from the concierge.

Peter Robinson conducted what sounded like a scratch band at tempos so slow that Tarnino's first aria became a vocal Everest. Timothy Richards warmed valiantly into the role. Louise Cannon as Pamina gave him passionate support: her strong, fearlessly projected soprano was one of the redeeming factors of the entire evening. Sylvia Galloway's already accomplished Queen of Night was marched by a musical Sarastro (Vincent Fawcett) who really sang the role and, given a character, could have been a force to be reckoned with.

HILARY FINCH

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Kent Nagano conducts the first notes in Manchester's new Bridgewater Hall
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

FILMS

Courtroom dramas in the Deep South: John Grisham's thriller, *A Time to Kill*, comes to the big screen
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PROMS

Maestro of the Ninth: Sir Georg Solti conducts Beethoven with the Chicago Symphony
CONCERT: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

BOOKS

Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood brings out a lurid tale of Victorian suspense, *Alias Grace*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Voices in the wilderness

THEATRE

Pentecost
Donmar

When David Edgar wrote a play about the Balkans recently, he called it *Pentecost*. But in 1987 the same title was used by the Ulster dramatist Stewart Parker, who died aged 47 of cancer a year later. In *Acts II* the Apostles talk in a baffling variety of tongues because the Holy Ghost has entered them. In both Edgar's new nation and in Parker's Northern Ireland we get the variety, the confusion, the bewilderment. What is missing in both places is the unity within the chaos, the inspiration and understanding that believers would call the Holy Ghost.

Parker's Irish — which the excellent Irish company Rough Magic is bringing to Covent Garden — also has a particular reason for its title. It was on Pentecost Sunday in 1974 that militant Protestant workers ended the strike that had shut off gas and electricity and closed factories, forcing the Wilson Government to abandon its plans for power-sharing. That is when the piece occurs. That explains why there are unruly mobs and, finally, triumphant pipebands outside the tumble-down house in which Parker places his cross-section of Ulster people.

This house is marooned between Roman Catholic and Protestant lines. Its long-time tenant, a grim Protestant widow, has recently died, and it is in the process of being bought by Eleanor Methven's Marian, who is of Catholic stock, alienated temperament and decidedly odd inclinations. She wants to preserve it as a monument to broken Irish lives and spends much of the evening talking to the troubled, rancorous ghost of its former occupant.

But most of the play is less eccentric. While fiery spirals outside, visitors come to call, to stay and to argue about issues that are with us still. There is Brian Doherty's



Morna Regan as Ruth and Paul Hickey as Peter in Stewart Parker's *Pentecost*, set in Ulster during the 1974 strikes

Lenny, a dropout from a well-to-do clan with worrying IRA connections. There is Morna Regan's Ruth, still emotionally in thrall to a violent, self-hating RUC husband. There is Paul Hickey's Peter, who comes from a supremacist Protestant family and would rather be back in Birmingham, away from a city where "the animals run the zoo". They could be exemplary, representative figures but, thanks to Parker's wit yet impassioned writing and the skills of Lynne Parker's cast, they brim with life.

The play fully confirms that Parker was a genuine talent and a considerable loss. His ending, in which everybody seems to recall what *Pentecost* really meant and talks of a humanity that supersedes clericalism, should be repeated on loudspeakers all over Ulster again and again.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Voyage without discovery

WILLY RUSSELL, author of *Educating Rita* and *Blood Brothers*, has also penned a musical about a coach party of schoolkids. These endearing little terrors are the diminutive stars of this otherwise disappointing show. They are Mrs Kay's "progress" class of backward and naughty pupils in Russell's light comedy, rewritten for this stage revival 20 years after its original television screening.

The class are being bussed out of the inner city on a day trip to Alton Towers when Mr Briggs, the petty disciplinarian, gets on board and the trip is rerouted to Wales and a site of historic interest.

The day turns out fine in the end. They stop off at a zoo and finally a funfair, where Briggs temporarily stops being mean, having been taught a lesson by a suicidal pupil.

Our Day Out
Belgrade, Coventry

Our Day Out is a bit like *Grange Hill* with songs. Unfortunately Russell's drama is sketchy and clumsily structured. There are too many characters and most of them do not develop. Even the teachers remain two-dimensional. Colin (Roby Davies) has virtually nothing to do but be unwillingly cornered by two girls with a crush on him. The play superficially sets up a debate about opposing educational creeds. Briggs, obsessed with old-school values, clashes with Kay and her allies who believe in giving children free rein. But Lyn Whitehead's earthy Mrs Kay seems wholly sympathetic while Briggs (John Wild) is

too simply a paranoid authoritarian.

Still, the show has its delights. The kids mouth off liberally, which is refreshing. Their mischief is entertaining as they sing dirty ditties, puff condoms and machine and let the zoo animals loose. They have heaps of energy and have been impressively well-drilled by director Glen Walford. Some of the solo numbers are wobbly, but watch out for Machaia Brewster rapping about everything being boring. The set, all high fencing and barbed wire, is dreary but the bus has a bit of fantastical sparkle with its silver-winged radiator and coloured lights, like a jukebox big enough for a junior choir.

KATE BASSETT

Everyday tales of FM folk

first Asian sit-com". It began at lunchtime last Wednesday. Is it set in a shop? No. Is it set in a garment factory? No. It is set in an Asian radio station in the East End.

Masala FM is by no means a bad show. It is written by and stars Meera Syal, whose observant wit and urbanity reaches far beyond an ethnic audience. But navel-gazing does not suit any medium, radio included, and this internalising of comedy only reinforces the notion among ordinary listeners that the

RADIO

media is self-obsessed — especially when the previous week's major comedy launch on Radio 4 was *Down Your Way* (Thursdays), which stars another multiple talent in actress-writer Doon Mackichan. This series concerns a writer attempting to present a radio programme which is consistently interrupted by the output of a pirate radio station.

The problem with *Masala*

FM, in particular, is that it invites the worst of all accolades: other radio journalists finding it an absolute scream. Whether the ordinary listener cares two hoots is doubtful.

Evidence from *Feedback* (Radio 4) suggests that the heat under listeners' collars soars whenever the BBC sounds self-indulgent. But that is usually brought on by the corporation's insufferable spokespersons rather than by programmes. At least, it was.

Yet there is radio life beyond the media, even if it is past life.

The consistently excellent Radio 2 Arts Programme (Sunday) did a splendid number on King Arthur, exploring the legend in literature, theatre and film, from the hero of early Welsh poetry to the Broadway portrayal in *Camelot*, from the first movie (1910) to the latest, *First Knight*, last year.

Tony Jones was the guide and the programme always had pace without ever sacrificing detail. This was radio doing what it does best, telling a story via a rich archive of sound. A medium looking outwards, as it should.

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Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed-Tue Sat Mat 2.30
From 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Matthew Parris



■ What shall I do now? What shall I ever do? Perhaps after all it's better late than early

Why was that hour in York on Thursday so unnerving? I was there to speak after a dinner. I'd known about it for ages but not really concentrated on details of time and place. Only on arrival at York station did I sit quietly on a bench with the correspondence — and realise I could have taken a later train. It was half past six. The dinner, at a nearby hotel, began at 7.30.

This was unsettling. I am always late. It seems 20 years since I have had an hour to kill. My habit is to fill a day with undertakings, then squeeze in some extra ones too.

So what to do now? I know nobody in York but a friend who was not expecting me. Probably the Minister would be closed, and anyway the word "heritage" has a baleful sound. Preferring the word "work", I opened my laptop computer and started the introduction to a book.

Fifteen minutes passed in a trice. A few paragraphs written — then a warning flashed: battery spent. I packed up. Forty-five minutes left. Nothing to do.

Time slowed and everything wound down. I could feel my heartbeat slacken. Have you ever listened to a dance record when the power cuts? It nosedives. The twang and jangle, the insistent beat, come crashing down as gallop slows to canter, to trot, to walk, to plod, to stop. Speed and rhythm bear the melody aloft; kill the pace and the music crashes.

Leaving my bag at the hotel, I went for a walk. It was a beautiful September evening. From the riverbank I could see pleasure-craft docking for the night. Swallows were gathering on the wires with enormous clamour. For a few minutes I watched a family of ducks foraging in the shallows, then, noticing a youth and his girlfriend necking rather close to me, I felt embarrassed and moved ten yards along the river walk.

A church clock struck seven. Only 12 minutes had passed since leaving the station. I thought to amble over the bridge, but so used am I to walking fast or even running that it was an effort to ramble. Forcing myself to slow to the pace of others I passed a couple of youths with very short haircuts and shirts untucked. Was this a trend? I started observing others: yes, almost all the younger men had crewcuts, shirt-tails out. When did the fashion start? I seem to have missed it. It was 7.03.

Over the bridge a homeless youth with bad skin was squatting in a doorway, begging. My pace was too slow to avoid the decision: should one give to these people? I debated with myself then said "sorry" and walked on. He rolled a cigarette. I thought: "Hal! So he's not too poor to buy tobacco," and considered my decision vindicated. It was four minutes past seven. I phoned a friend to use up some of the 37 units left on my phone card. 23, 22, 21... they clicked down so slowly.

There were some shoes in a sale in a window. £45! Gosh, I thought shoes were about £15. I looked into an open church. All Saints Pavement, a bit pallid. By a paved precinct a brown-skinned man was singing *Amazing Grace* unaccompanied in a fine bass voice. Pondering a while, I put 20p in his hat on account of his talent, then thought how mean it had been to give nothing to the first youth, who had no talent and bad skin; and how mean and stupid to disparage him for smoking when a spindly cigarette was his only pleasure. So I returned, but found in my pocket only 7p change. He said, without sarcasm, "Thanks a lot, ta". I spent some minutes re-proaching myself and contemplating giving him a five pound note as a penance, while pretending to look at All Saints Pavement again, but decided this would be melodramatic. It was ten past seven.

And to think I could have taken the later train

I read the special offers in a travel agent's window — a trip to Skiathos: where is Skiathos? — until 7.15. In five minutes you can read a whole display many times. Returning to the precinct I found the brown-skinned man still singing (*Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*), and walked on, past some public phones. A young man was talking, rather tenderly, probably to a girlfriend: "Why not? It's only two hours by train..." Not wishing to pry, I moved on. But where? Not back to the singing man: I had passed him twice already and risked becoming conspicuous. I saw some more shoes in another window, but I'm not interested in shoes. I returned past the telephones. The young man was still talking, and glanced at me. I hoped he did not think I was prying. It was 7.20.

And I know this sounds silly but I was gripped by a sort of panic. What to do? The massed twitter of the gathering swallows acquired a note of menace. My short visit to Earth had been scary: as though, perching momentarily, I found the tentacles of commonplace things wrapping themselves round my ankles. I longed to take wing again. "You'd better not look down, or you might not keep on flying," sings B.B. King, and so it was proving. Like a flat stone over water, it is by motion that we keep airborne: by speed that we skim. Stop and the waves close over. Spinning, the spinning top stays upright. Slow your spin and the top wobbles. I gave up the attempt to stroll, and scurried back over the bridge to the shelter of the hotel lobby. It was 7.22. How frightening to have time on your hands.

The Conservative election campaign has started badly, and the polls show Labour heading for triumph

Demon eyes are not scaring anyone

William Rees-Mogg

The so-called "demon" eyes must have seemed like a good idea to the Tories, who are searching desperately for a way to reduce Labour's lead in the polls. A ridiculous amount of fuss has been made about the picture which has supposedly "demonised" Tony Blair. If the Tories think that they can win the next election by portraying Tony Blair as Batman, Mickey Mouse or Popeye the Sailor Man, that is all well within the bounds of cartoon propaganda. The important question is: does it work? The obvious answer is: no, it does not.

This summer, the Conservative Party has suffered a major propaganda defeat. Eight or nine months before the election the Tories have unveiled what has to be a central campaign theme, the fear of Labour. That was in any case far too early, and gives the Labour Party only too much time to reply.

Even if the campaign had been taken seriously by the public, it would have peaked in August and September 1996, and not in the target period of April or May 1997. Instead, it has made little or no impact, except to inoculate the public against anti-Labour scare tactics, and to give Labour a welcome opportunity to ridicule Tory advertising.

So far as I can tell, most people are not now afraid of a Labour government, even if they are going to vote Conservative. The general view among the rich is that their taxes will cost them a bit more, but not so much that they are seriously worried. Senior businessmen, both in industry and the City, think that a Labour victory will make little difference to their businesses, except possibly on European issues, over which they are themselves divided. In Somerset, I find that the Conservatives are rather more confident about their ability to hold off the Liberal Democrat challenge, but that is largely because Lib-

eral voters seem to be switching to Labour.

The prevailing national mood is that "it's time for a change", a view supported by no less than 79 per cent in the latest Gallup poll, and that Labour "couldn't do worse than the present lot", supported by 72 per cent. Many Conservative voters are already quite reconciled to a Labour victory, and even those who strongly hope that Labour will not win are not in any panic at the prospect.

Yet the Gallup poll is worrying to most Tories, not because of any fear that Tony Blair is about to emerge as a second Robespierre, but because the poll is holding steady at a very large Labour victory. The picture given by other polls is somewhat different but not entirely. They also show a big Labour lead, but it is not quite so big.

Five years ago, Britain was eight months away from the general election which was held on April 9, 1992. The Gallup poll taken in September 1991 proved a surprisingly accurate forecast of the election result eight months later. The Conservative vote was put at 39.5, by April it had actually risen to 42.8. The Labour vote was put at 35 in the election, Labour polled 35.2. The Liberal Democrats were put at 16.5, and they actually polled 18.3. The last eight months before the 1992 election may have seen a modest improvement for the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, but Gallup already had the

Labour lead of 20, sometimes after an adjustment. Gallup itself does an adjustment which brings the Labour lead down to 18.5. Most people still believe that the familiar voting patterns of the post-war period are going to reassert themselves, that the general election will be quite close, and that the Conservatives might even win. The spread of possibility is indeed still very wide, and public opinion may prove to be volatile, but as yet there is little or no sign that the necessary large Tory recovery is taking place. It does not show in the opinion polls or

supposes that the Conservatives make a really strong recovery, both in terms of the adjusted Gallup figures and in terms of the other opinion polls. Labour would still win the election with 45 per cent of the vote, only a couple of points more than the Conservatives had last time, and the Conservatives would have 35 per cent, exactly Labour's share last time. Again it is difficult to convert both into seats. Such a result might produce a Parliament like that of 1966, when the Conservatives held about 250 seats; it might even produce a Parliament like that of 1945, when the Conservatives won only about 200 seats. Labour's overall majority could be anything from 50 to 150 seats. Yet given what the opinion polls are showing now, such a Labour victory would follow even a big Tory recovery.

We are all rightly suspicious of the predictive value of opinion polls, because they have been wrong too often. Yet the assumption that the polls are more likely than not to be wrong is itself not justified by experience. They have a much better rate of prediction than by-elections, let alone mere hunch or guesswork. What they are saying, more or less unanimously, is that there is now a significant chance of an overwhelming Labour victory.

That is the depth of the hole out of which the Tories must try to climb. It is also a measure of the failure of the Tories' scare campaign. The latest Gallup poll, which shows a 33 per cent lead, is only one point better for the Tories than the previous month's, when the demon eyes campaign was not yet under way. The lesson for John Major is unequivocal. He is now fighting to prevent Labour winning by a landslide. To succeed he must give people reasons to vote for the Tories, not just reasons not to vote Labour. Demon eyes are not frightening anyone.

Hush-hush when it matters

Peter Riddell
on the issues
that are too hot
to handle before
an election

What politicians say during elections is often less revealing than what they try to avoid talking about. Riddell's first law of elections is that the dominant issue of a Parliament is almost always something that was not properly discussed during the preceding campaign.

That is why the initial barrages of the 1996-97 campaign have been so depressing. It is not just their crassness and predictability (though the Tories may prove effective in scaring some defectors back into the fold). Worse has been the way the parties are dodging the key issues facing any government in the next Parliament: the state of the public finances, the structure of public services, welfare reform, relations between Whitehall and local councils, and the single currency. The implications are too politically awkward.

This pattern has been true of several previous elections. In 1987, for example, there was hardly any mention of the poll tax outside Scotland, even though it featured in the Tory manifesto. As David Butler, Andrew Adonis and Tony Travers point out in their book on the poll tax debacle, *Failure in British Government*, Labour was so worried about drawing attention to "loony-left" local councils, that its leaders decided against sending out material damning the poll tax. And when Jack Cunningham did mention it, there was little media interest. But the poll tax went on to dominate the 1987-92 Parliament.

In 1992, Europe was the dog that did not bark. The Maastricht treaty was mentioned in the Tory manifesto, but it was not highlighted in the campaign. According to the Nuffield



study of the election, Europe was not in the top 12 issues in television news coverage. Of course, as the sceptics argue, the two front benches agreed on both Maastricht and Britain's involvement in the exchange-rate mechanism, and did not want to draw attention to dissent within their parties. There is something in this, though at the time everyone expected Maastricht to be ratified by the end of the summer.

The classic example of this law at present is the silence over the public finances. The crossfire over Labour's ill-defined goal of a lower starting-rate of tax and the Tories' list of alleged Labour taxes (some of which are fanciful or not really taxes at all) has generally missed the mark. As the past four years have shown, what matters is public spending and borrowing. The Tories have taken tough measures, but because of a

shortfall in tax receipts, they have not finished the job. The core budget deficit has not been eliminated, and existing plans are unrealistic about future levels of spending on key services such as health and on public-sector pay — and they rely on big cuts in investment. So whoever is Chancellor in the next Parliament will have to raise taxes and squeeze some programmes to finance expansion elsewhere and to reduce borrowing. The small tax cuts likely in November are a trivial and damaging diversion. Similarly, interest rates would almost certainly be increased this autumn but for the approach of the election.

The Tories want to distract attention from this, while Labour is torn. Gordon Brown wants to shift the debate away from negative exchanges towards the state of public finances. But it is not enough to point to his toughness on new spending commitments, or to demand an inquiry into the real position. Mr Brown, as well as obviously Mr Clarke, should say what he plans to do. The debate should focus on what level of public spending we need, the scope for shifting financing to the private sector (as both parties intend in higher education) and whether the VAT base needs to be extended. Part of the problem lies with the media, which often act as propagandists and prevent rational discussion of difficult options. Only the Liberal Democrats are frank, and they may be over-optimistic about the size of the niche market for candour.

The same constraints apply to welfare reform. The main parties accept that current policies are costly

and are not weaning enough people off welfare. Any real reform is bound to move further towards welfare (working or full-time training in return for benefits) and compulsory insurance for long-term risks such as sickness, unemployment and care in old age. To the anger of many in his party, Mr Brown has started to move down this road with his proposal that the young unemployed should not be allowed to remain permanently on full benefit and for reallocation child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds. But Labour's credibility is undermined by its reluctance to be frank about the implications, and by its unqualified and glib attacks on the Government's social security measures. Tony Blair and Mr Brown say they want welfare reform to be a centrepiece of a Labour government, but at present there is more aspiration than substance.

The leaders in both parties are even more keen to avoid talking about the single currency. They pretend that the decision is some time off in the unknowable future, for fear that anything more definite will reveal internal party divisions. Britain may have until spring 1998 finally to decide whether to join, even if monetary union goes ahead in January 1999. So it is reasonable for those not opposed in principle to wait until nearer the time to judge whether the structure and economic conditions are right. But the preliminary steps of legislating to make the Bank of England independent and the like will have to be under way within 12 months. So by a spring 1997 election, specific decisions will be imminent.

If President Chirac has shown that France is moving towards the Maastricht guidelines, monetary union will look like a probability. So it will be unconvincing for the Tories to claim that they have not ruled out entry in the next Parliament — when everyone knows it would split the party in two — or for Labour to pretend that it does not incline one way or the other. Monetary union is too important to be buried in pre-election evasions.

The parties should not be allowed to get away with a campaign based on scare tactics, glib promises and phony allegations.

Ringing rebuke

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Home Secretary, is having trouble with his junior ministers. At the end of last week, Tom Sackville uttered the heresy that unemployment may be linked to crime. Now his other key junior minister, Timothy Kirkhope, has been breaking the rules of aircraft safety.

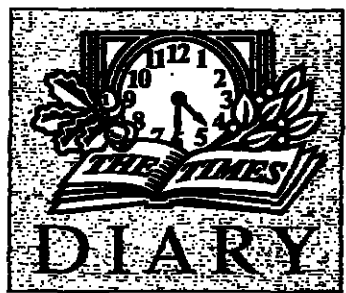
Taking a break from his duties as duty Home Office minister while his colleagues enjoyed their foreign holidays, Kirkhope, who holds a pilot's licence, was at the controls of a single-engine Piper Warrior 4,000ft above the Pennines when his bleeper sounded. The message urged him to call the Whitehall mandarins who needed a decision on some gripping matter.

Handing the controls over to his co-pilot, Kirkhope pulled out his mobile phone and rang the Home Office. But, as any seasoned traveller knows, mobile phones are capable of interfering with sensitive aircraft instruments, and may not be turned on during scheduled and charter flights.

"I wouldn't use a phone like that in a commercial aircraft," walls Kirkhope. "I switched off one or



In Russia: still Lebed



he affects a dainty cigarette-holder of the Princess Margaret variety. Can we expect a revival of this exciting accessory?

Defector

EVEN before the university term has started, the president of the Cambridge Hawks, the exclusive club to which only Blues can be elected, has been obliged to resign. Adrian Spencer, a rugby union Blue, is defecting to rugby league and has signed a contract to play for the London Broncos.

His first and last job will be to organise the re-election of his successor. The steward of the club — which counts Mike Atherton and Rob Andrew as members — is generous about the matter: "We never

gave him a dinner to celebrate his election so we will give him a leaving dinner instead."

Go for broke

LORD WILLOUGHBY de Broke, who is both a friend of the Prince of Wales and an occasional tennis partner of the Princess, is embarking on an awfully big adventure.

A founder member of the Vanderbilt tennis club (very top notch), he has taken up a rather more arduous sport. He has packed his solar topee and is off on a horse-riding expedition across the desert in Namibia. He has been in training for several weeks. "The trek will take two to three weeks, so I have been practising on an elderly horse here on the farm," he explains.

"Six or eight hours riding a day will be damn painful," he says blithely, but he shows a touching solicitude for the horses. "I am a little concerned about how they will cope with the sand. Perhaps they ought to wear pilmoolls."

Beach party

DESPITE the sartorial rules, Jerold James Gordon, who trained

as a singer, recently conducted an opera in his beachwear.

"I have been singing in the Spandau Summer Opera Festival in Berlin," he explains. "One night our conductor was held up in traffic. I was asked to stand in and I conducted the whole of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* in my stage costume, which was a 1950s version of a T-shirt, bathing trunks and flip-flops. I also had to leap on the stage to sing my bit, an intermezzo performed between acts."

He was rewarded for his efforts



A growing problem: national minimum wage rage

with two bouquets — one for singing, one for conducting.

At the flicks

BRITISH SPORTSMEN are flexing their thumbs for the next big event, the International Festival of Marbles to be held this week near Nashville, Tennessee. After the disappointments of Atlanta, the British team aims to restore national sporting pride when it takes on French and regional American teams in the Olympics of the marble players' calendar.

Team leader Barry Ray (grandson of Jim "Atomic Thumb" Longhurst), his son Darren (the reigning world champion) and daughter Allison (ladies champion) will be donning British T-shirts. A Union Jack has been packed, together with the national anthem, because organisers in the home town of American country music found they had no copy with the rarely sung second and third verses.

No skipping from the Rays if they win.

It aly

AS UMBERTO BOSSI and the breakaway Northern League in



Loren: queening it?

Italy wait to declare independence this week for the self-styled republic of the north, or Padania as they call it. Sophia Loren, the evergreen filmstar, has declared her own plans for Naples in the south.

She has said that she wants her birthplace to become the Kingdom of Naples, as it once was. "Sophia wants to be Queen of Naples," says a fellow countryman, "I think she likes the idea of wearing a crown."

P.H.S

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COOK AND BULL

Back-door socialism is back on the agenda

The panjandrums of the EU have abandoned any intention to calm Britain's debate about Europe. Scheduling a special EU summit on October 5, two days before the Tory party conference opens in Bournemouth, should ensure that John Major reaffirms his opposition to many of the proposed revisions of the Maastricht Treaty. The summiters are supposed to clear such British blockages; but its chosen date means that no such breakthrough can occur.

At the Dublin summits of October and December, EU leaders seem instead set to make clear that they are no longer interested in Mr Major; they intend to leave some of the biggest decisions in the hope that Tony Blair reaches Downing Street. What are the ideas for which Mr Blair's continental counterparts are waiting so eagerly? Last week the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, outlined a few of them in an interview in the *New Statesman*. As a cocktail of the politically naive, the economically foolish and the electorally useful to Mr Major, they would be hard to match.

Mr Cook cannot be faulted for thinking small: he wants to rewrite the EU's whole agenda. The problem for Europe's socialists, he thinks, is that they are governing in only the smaller states. The balance of power would be transformed once a British Labour government had put itself at the head of the left-wing alliance. Before you could say "Jacques Santer", unemployment would be at the top of every summiters' blotter.

If Mr Cook thinks it is that easy, he has a nasty shock in store. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac have endured more than a decade of economic pain, ruined the lives of millions of young people made jobless by overvalued currencies and ruthlessly suppressed opposition to the single currency. For what? To surrender the prize of monetary union to an alliance of Britain, Scandinavian social democrats and dithering Italians. We think not.

Mr Cook professes himself mystified by the EU's lack of interest in Jacques Delors' plans to cut unemployment. The explanation is simple: the public spending involved was considered by Herr Kohl to be incompatible with cutting deficits and merging their currencies. With the exception of its ideas on deregulation, the plan faded into obscurity.

If Mr Cook means that he wishes to rewrite the stiff economic tests written into the Maastricht treaty, he should say so. Those are the requirements which help to ensure that European unemployment stays at an average 11 per cent and double that figure in the unluckiest states. If Mr Cook would care to abandon his opaque reluctance over the single currency and rule out British participation, he would follow his own logic to its conclusion and win votes here. But he might have trouble finding allies on the Continent.

Suppose, however, that Mr Cook did find those allies and that the EU adopted a socialist agenda. At this point in his interview, he revealed himself to be more sympathetic to EU social legislation than some of new Labour's recent wriggles and wiggles on this subject have revealed. The EU's social chapter is important because it is one of the "first attempts by an international community to reach minimum standards on social provision". So much for Mr Blair's assurances that if Labour takes Britain into the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty, no harm will come to the businesses which dread the job-destroying small print of social directives written in Brussels.

Mr Cook revealed himself as quite at ease with the idea that the EU can be put to good use in pushing and pulling Britain on to the socialist path. In the Shadow Foreign Secretary's eyes, the redistribution of power towards Brussels is fine as long as the power is used along good socialist lines. In bygone days this used to be known as socialism by the back door.

BATTLE FOR AMERICA

Clinton and Dole hold the front lines — but not the only lines

President Clinton enters the final phase of his re-election campaign this week as the clear favourite. His popularity remains in many ways mysterious. Why do Americans not see the cynicism and evasions that have characterised his term in office? Do they expect no better from politicians these days? Are they simply enjoying their prosperity and asking no questions? Or is Bill Clinton simply better than his stiff and bad-tempered opponent, Bob Dole?

In 57 days' time the outcome — if not the analysis — will be settled. As we outline on page 11 today, the battle lines in the Electoral College have been drawn and the critical states identified. Mr Clinton, like John Major, is at his happiest when pounding the disputed territory between the parties. Although both men are also at their best with their backs against the wall, that is a talent which Mr Clinton does not yet need.

The struggle for the Oval Office inevitably attracts a greater international attention than that for the other elections in November. Presidential prestige always adds to the impression of an all-conquering political colossus. In foreign policy a combination of constitutional prerogatives and a superpower's need for speed make the presidency a place of real authority. On domestic questions, however, the US Congress is usually king. Elections to the House of Representatives and Senate always deserve the attention of America's allies: this year they deserve more attention than usual.

Both Mr Clinton and Mr Dole are familiar. Both are professional politicians *par excellence*. Both seem happiest at the centre of their parties. Neither has built a career on ideological purity or regularly raised the standard of bright colours. Compromise is their shared hallmark. Their similarities, however, obscure big issues.

There are three plausible scenarios for

after November. The first is that Mr Clinton is re-elected and the Democrats are restored to their former dominion in Congress. Because the party is no closer to a single purpose now than it was four years ago, it is unlikely that a cohesive agenda would emerge from such a victory. But memories of the early Clinton years, when Democrats ruled at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, are not happy. A new Democrat-ruled Congress has not won the explicit endorsement of even the President himself.

In the second scenario Mr Clinton would be returned alongside a party, or exclusively, Republican legislature. Politics would then continue much as they have done in the past 18 months. Conservatives would use their greater internal agreement and higher discipline to determine the direction of public policy. They would reduce the size and scope of the federal government and devolve power to the states. Mr Clinton could not prevent that direction but would slow the pace of change.

The final possibility places Mr Dole with a Republican Congress. Largely at the instigation of the latter, this could lead to a fundamental alteration in principle and priorities. Taxation would be dramatically reduced and federal expenditure curtailed on a sweeping scale. More power would return to the states. Most of what has been prevailing orthodoxy over the past six decades would be treated as either mistaken or overtaken by events.

If the last outcome occurs, the much-debated questions of what tasks should governments attempt, what level of government is best suited to undertake them and by what means and mechanism should they be executed, could be given new and dramatic answers. Neither Mr Clinton nor Mr Dole is a great philosopher. But the consequences of this November's contests could be profound.

RULES OF ASYLUM

Britain should clamp down on refugees advocating terrorism

The organisers of the aborted Islamic rally yesterday blamed foreign governments, Jews, homosexuals and the media for the cancellation of the London meeting where messages of support were to have been broadcast from fugitive and imprisoned terrorists. The self-styled Muslim Parliament of Great Britain called the cancellation a "sinister" example of British Government hypocrisy and xenophobia. Both statements epitomise the militancy and perverted logic that had made the rally such a threat to moderate Muslims in Britain.

The rally was cancelled because speakers had intended to voice the kind of bigotry likely to stir up violent protests from other groups spilling for a fight. It was the message of intolerance itself that led to the message of intolerance. Not any concerted plot against Islam. Some of those most worried by the rally were Muslims who knew that calls for a jihad against the "imperialist" West and its Middle East allies would inevitably capture the headlines and strengthen the association of Islam with violence. To allow groups such as the Muslim Parliament to speak for Britain's 1.5 million Muslims is to allow those who stir up violence to pose as the

demands from the Middle East to cancel the rally, risked friction with Arab governments by insisting, correctly, that it had no power to do so. What it demanded, however, was that the speakers respect British law. This outlaws incitement to violence and racial hatred; but it says nothing about incitement to terrorism and violence overseas. As the aborted rally showed, Britain's lax laws have now made it a haven for extremists who use religion as a cloak.

After John Major's commitment to his C7 allies, that may soon change. Britain is to take a lead in changing the United Nations convention in order to deny asylum to those who advocate or fund terrorism. More immediately, Michael Howard is to broaden the present law of conspiracy to include those who plot terrorism overseas. The aim is not to close the doors to genuine political refugees, but to ensure that terrorists in exile do not use Britain as a base for undesirable subversion. In accepting political refugees most other countries curb their political activities, offering a basic human right, physical safety, not a new campaign headquarters. Britain is right to be working along similar lines — on behalf of its friends abroad, its allies and to its Muslim citizens

Advisory group proposals on future of Naval College

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, Ministers have not "given approval" for a Greenwich University campus on the site of the Royal Naval College (report, September 3; see also article, September 4 and letters, September 6).

They have decided to accept a recommendation from the Greenwich Advisory Group for the establishment of a trust to take responsibility for the preservation and future use of these historic buildings.

The proposal for a trust was first put forward to ministers by various responsible interests in October last year. It hardly needed an advisory group to spend eight months to confirm that this was the best way forward.

Despite the wish of the Secretaries of State for Defence and National Heritage (letter, September 14, 1995) to consider "the widest possible range of proposals in securing an appropriate and sympathetic use of this magnificent collection of buildings... of outstanding cultural and heritage importance to the nation", it appears that the advisory group have considered only the proposal from Greenwich University.

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the advisory group (letter, September 6), states that the university "was the only organisation to submit detailed plans supported by adequate funding". She omits to add that in the group's judgment, in its report, "the university will be near the limits of its resources when these aspirations are added to those elsewhere".

Neither does Dame Jennifer mention the considerable uncertainties which will affect financial planning. These include a sum of £25 million or more which the group have identified

will be needed to put the buildings in good repair and to adapt them for future use.

The ministerial press release of September 2 includes the report's conclusion that "there is scope both to allow the university to establish a major campus... with the National Maritime Museum in closer academic partnership...". It goes on: "The precise terms of the arrangements and scope for other imaginative and appropriate uses of the buildings will be a matter for the trust to decide".

Quite so. The sooner trustees are appointed and urged to use more imagination than has been demonstrated so far, the better. Enough time has been wasted.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIN,
House of Lords,
September 6.

From the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich

Sir, The report by the Greenwich Advisory Group alluded to by your Whitehall Editor (report, September 3) questioned "whether [the university] could pay for the future upkeep of the buildings".

The group's report in fact confirms, in paragraph 29, that:

"The University of Greenwich's approach to date appears to us to be responsible. We believe that its plans to finance its interest in the Royal Naval College are achievable."

The financial plan, submitted last November, had to comply with the conditions under which the Royal Naval College was being offered — ie, that all existing liabilities had to be taken over by a tenant.

However, the advisory group's final proposals, now accepted, make it clear that the burden is partly to be

borne by a trust. It follows that the financial burden on the university will be less than expected and that it will have no difficulty in meeting its obligations, as Dame Jennifer Jenkins's letter today accepts.

As a result, I can also allay the concerns of Nick Raynsford, MP for Greenwich, which you reported, by confirming that the university will be able to rehabilitate the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital and Devonport Nurses' Home.

Libby Purves's article, "Greenwich still in peril" (September 4), shows a misunderstanding of what the advisory group proposes. Since the proposed trust, not the university, will be responsible for ensuring that the historic monument does not live "from hand to mouth" [with] birds boarded up or permanently under repair, scrupulously maintained, she need have little fear that this university would accept such a situation.

As Dame Jennifer indicates, discussions are taking place between the university and the National Maritime Museum to develop specialisms in maritime studies which will run at the Royal Naval College. The university does not intend to "run a business-school campus on the site, and perforce on a shoestring", as Libby Purves puts it.

The university's proposals have been thoroughly analysed by representatives of the Greenwich Advisory Group. I imagine the museum's proposals were given the same consideration.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN McWILLIAM,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Greenwich,
Southwood House,
Avery Hill Road, Eltham, SE9.
September 6.

Safety on holiday

From the Editor of Holiday Which?

Sir, Martin Brackenbury of the Federation of Tour Operators (letter, September 3) neatly sidesteps the crucial issues in the debate over holiday safety by attempting to criticise *Holiday Which?* research.

Holiday Which? believes that British holidaymakers have a right to expect tour operators to send them to safe hotels and that tour operators are legally responsible for the safety standards of the hotels they use. Yet our latest research exposed 38 out of 39 hotels inspected in Turkey and Gran Canaria which failed our safety inspections — and many even failed to comply with their own national safety standards.

We have been inspecting hotels for safety for nearly 20 years — far longer than tour operators. All the hotels recommended in *Holiday Which?* are visited and our experience has shown that most hoteliers are keen to act on our findings and improve their safety standards. It is worrying that the FTO does not appear to share the same constructive attitude — and, even with the economic muscle it wields, claims that tour operators are unable to secure improvements.

We have made every attempt to meet industry representatives to discuss the problems with their inspection programme, but the FTO have consistently declined to meet us. It is time that tour operators acknowledged their own responsibilities to British consumers.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA YATES
Editor, *Holiday Which?*,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1.
September 3.

Law Society reform

From Mr Kenneth Seakens

Sir, Andrew Lockley's arguments ("Vote for the baby, not the bathwater", *Law*, September 3) in favour of preserving the present status of the Law Society imply a nostalgic view of the society's influence which is at odds with reality.

No professional body can any longer effectively regulate and represent in the best interests of either consumer or professional. The present muddle satisfies no one, as is amply demonstrated by the myriad voices seeking independent regulation of all legal services.

Root and branch constitutional reform of the Law Society is long overdue and separation of functions is an obvious first step. Confidence needs to be restored for both the public and the profession — sooner rather than later.

Yours faithfully,
K. SEAKENS
(Member, Steering Committee,
The Solicitors Association),
18 Station Approach,
Virginia Water, Surrey.

Tail story

From Mr Bob Prescott

Sir, I am sure passengers appreciate the facts and figures given them on the bigger jet planes, such as distance to travel, height, speed, temperature outside, size of the aircraft. But I was rather alarmed recently, after being told we were flying at 500 mph, to read on the TV screen: "The tail of this aircraft is 52 feet above the ground."

We did reach Manchester safely.

Yours faithfully,
BOB PRESCOTT.

A testing time for five-year-olds

From Mr John Walker

Sir, It is excellent news that children are to be tested/assessed when entering school (reports, September 4), as we have been working towards this goal for some years. We have likened this assessment to the goods-inwards inspection process that is conducted by any sensible organisation. How can you initiate any process when you have not looked at the basis from which you start?

I wholeheartedly share the reservations as to the appropriateness of the proposed testing criteria expressed in your leading article of the same day, "B for achievement". We see many children who are numerate and/or literate entering school only to be processed through the school system as if they were incapable of functioning other than at the standard level.

For instance, we know of one child (aged six) who was corrected for writing down random numbers. They were in fact all the prime numbers under 50, but this explanation was not met with any enthusiasm by the teacher. This implies that attitudes must also change.

I look forward to the application of this test with considerable interest as it affects the children of high intelligence, many under school age, with whom we deal.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALKER
(Chairman),
Support Society for
Children of High Intelligence,
PO Box 4222, London SE22 8XC.
September 4.

From Mrs Sheila Lyddon

Sir, Parents are to be questioned by teachers about their children's ability before they start school. I am amazed that this is not done already. Are we to understand that professionals take on clients without knowing anything about them?

A financial adviser breaks the law if he breaches a word of advice to a client before thorough investigation of the client's needs and circumstances. It seems strange that a mass of protective legislation regulates the sale of a £20-a-month endowment policy, yet we are only just beginning to think

about "suitability" and "best advice" when it comes to education for our five-year-olds.

Yours faithfully,
S. LYDDON,
6a Station Parade,
Richmond, Surrey,
September 4.

From Mr T. J. King

Sir, Why stop at assessing the children's abilities in the three Rs? Surely basic skills, such as tying shoelaces and attitudes towards others, are just as important at the earliest stage of school careers. They are a test of child-rearing practices.

Some parents who apply for school entry for their five-year-olds are already interviewed. Why not formalise this procedure and use it as an assessment of parents' child-rearing techniques? This would be a compulsory procedure and part of the child's early assessment. Parents would give answers to a standard questionnaire which would then be signed by parents, the interviewer and a witness, and held by the school.

Nothing would concentrate the minds of parents more, especially if schools had the right to delay, or even refuse, admission on the basis of this interview.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. KING (Headmaster),
The John Fisher School, 1981-92,
Whitegates, Baigents Lane,
Windsor, Surrey,
September 4.

From Ms Gillian Tweed

Sir, In Wandsworth tests are taken by children early in the autumn term of the school year in which they will become five years old. In effect this means that the majority of children are only four when they are tested, some being as young as four years and one month.

Surely it would therefore be more accurate to describe them as tests for four-year-olds.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN TWEED,
32 Longstaff Road,
Wandsworth, SW18.
September 4.

A traitor's courage

From Mr Alan R. V. Anderson

Sir, Your obituary (September 4) of Julian Amery, son of Leo Amery (1873-1955), contrasts him with his brother John, hanged for treason in 1945.

I recall a talk given at my school by the chaplain who had throughout attended John Amery at Wandsworth Prison.

He told us that, having met many brave men but none braver than John Amery, he had felt compelled to ask him, shortly before the execution, how he could be so brave.

Even after a lapse of almost half a century, I find myself moved by the reply — "because I am my father's son".

Yours faithfully,
A. R. V. ANDERSON,
Côtés de Rozel,
Rozel, Jersey, CI.
September 4.

Sport letters, page 35

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept

Profit and loss on British inventions

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, None of the letters you have published on British inventions (August 15, 21, 26; September 2, 6) has seen fit to mention the many projects since 1945 upon which support has been lavished.

The ACE computer, atomic and hydrogen bombs, the Blue Streak and Black Arrow rockets, the TSR2 strike aircraft, several varieties of nuclear reactor (including Magnox and the fast-breeder), the Chevaline missile delivery system, Polaris and Trident submarines, the Nimrod aircraft, Concorde — these are just a few better-known examples from a much longer list which could be compiled of expensive ventures to which, at government behest, vast resources of scarce talents and skills have been devoted.

The truth is that, far from being parsimonious in such matters, successive British governments have been far too prodigal in squandering our substance on the development of devices which nobody else wanted to buy. And the Treasury (and Parliament, to whom we look for protection from such profligacy) have been far too lax in their defence of the country's true interests.

But the fault does not lie with government alone, nor with the education system or the shortcomings of the professions. It lies in a collective national misconception which leads us to believe that because a thing is both brilliant and British it must, of necessity, succeed in world markets.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITH
(Head of Science and Technology
Division, OECD, 1977-80),
63 Abbey House,
1a Abbey Road, NW8.
September 3.

From Dr Cedric Hassall, FRS

Sir, The recent correspondence on exploitation of ideas of British inventors has not done justice to one aspect — the personal motivation of inventors to produce commercial successes.

In the late 1970s legislation was introduced to provide financial rewards to inventors responsible for major commercial successes.

Even so, in the pharmaceutical industry which I know best — but it also applies in other high-tech industries — there are examples of inventors who have derived no specific financial reward for inventions producing gross sales of £100 million and more. Certainly, the inventor may sue his employer on the basis of the UK legislation but, in practice, few will wish to expose their companies in this way.

By contrast, I understand that where the British Technology Group (set up by government to convert British inventions into profitable ventures) works directly with the inventor, he/she normally receives 50 per cent of royalties.

In some countries such as Germany, the legislation relating to major inventions is more specific and provides that individual inventors named in controlling patents receive significant royalty payments that are based on sales.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC H. HASSALL
(Member, Council of the British
Technology Group, 1985-92),
2 Chestnut Close,
Westoning, Bedfordshire,
September 3.

Wales: see England

From Mrs Patrick Young

Sir, The Valleys may well weep at the illustration accompanying Simon Jenkins's article today, "Chapels in the valley of tears". Gwynnapp Pit, where John Wesley preached, is in Cornwall.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY YOUNG,
3F Lansdowne Road, W11.
September 7.

Cards of identity

From Mrs K. T. Thomas

Sir, Suspicions about the abuse of identity cards (letters, August 20, 23, 30; September 4, 6) are nothing new.

In the short story *Lonely*, written in 1899, Chekhov writes: "Whenever Startsev tried to talk even with one of the liberal inhabitants of the town, for example about how humanity, thank goodness, was moving forwards, and how in time one would be able to dispense with identity cards and capital punishment, the inhabitants would cast him a sideways, suspicious glance and ask, 'That means that anyone can cut anyone else's throat on the street?'"

Yours faithfully,
K. T. THOMAS,
139 Booth Road, NW9.

From Mrs J. Birkbeck

Sir, I cannot understand all the hoopla over identity cards.

For the past 15 years I have carried, in England, a card issued by the US Air Force which bears a photograph, signature, eye colour, hair, date of birth, husband's full name, my social security number, and weight (I lied).

Yours,
JO BIRKBECK,
46 Pen Street.

OBITUARIES

DAME JEAN LANCASTER

Commandant Dame Jean Lancaster, DBE, Director Women's Royal Naval Service 1961-64, died on August 29 aged 87. She was born on August 11, 1909.

Once the WRNS had been demobilised after the First World War, it was not until 1938 that the Admiralty, under the threat of a second war with Germany, reintroduced the service. By December 1939 there were more than 7,000 WRNS, their numbers steadily increasing until in 1944 their strength exceeded 74,000, serving the war effort in all parts of the globe.

Jean Davies, after an education at Merchant Taylors' School for Girls at Crosby in Lancashire and a job as the headmaster's secretary at the Merchant Taylors' boys' school in Liverpool, was an early member of this expansion. Joining up at the age of 30 in December 1939, she was soon promoted to probationary third officer and appointed to the staff of the Flag Officer Liverpool, where she dealt with the encoding and decoding of the vital message traffic controlling the campaign against the U-boats.

Clearly catching the selectors' eye, she was one of the first WRNS officers to qualify as a signals officer, taking in 1942 a course usually reserved for male officers.

Most of her subsequent wartime service continued to be in Liverpool in the operational headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches, the legendary Sir Max Horton, during the height of the Battle of the Atlantic. This organisation played a central part in the eventual defeat of the U-boat, and subsequent historical analysis has emphasised the crucial role played by communications and cryptography.

However, Jean Davies' qualities of accuracy, intelligence and discretion, supported by what used to be known



as a "presentable" appearance, enabled her to play a small part in momentous events.

In August 1943 she was selected to join the distinguished team of service chiefs, staff officers and others totalling some two hundred that accompanied the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, to the Quebec conference with President Roosevelt, codenamed Quadrant. (This conference decided the strategic shape of

much of the rest of the war — the invasion of France in 1944 from both the South and North, the Mediterranean campaign and the command structure in South-East Asia.)

In later years Jean Davies frequently recalled how thrilled she was to be at sea in the liner *Queen Mary*, working watches in the cipher room as the preparations went ahead. She also never lost her sense of amazement at the relative luxury of wartime

Canadian and American lifestyles.

After the Quebec conference, she was flown to Washington to help the British mission with its consequent workload and heavy signal traffic. Returning to Britain with Churchill in the battleship *Renown*, she was always proud that she was actually established as a member of the ship's company, exceptional treatment for a woman in those days.

Shortly after her return to her 84-hour working week underground in "the dungeon" of the Liverpool headquarters, Jean Davies was again chosen to accompany Churchill's entourage in the *Renown*, this time to the Cairo and Tehran conferences of November and December 1943.

Cairo provided an opportunity for the Western Allies to review the progress of the war in all theatres and to prepare for a meeting with Stalin at Tehran — the first plenary meeting of the Big Three. Discussions at Tehran aligned Soviet and Anglo-American strategies in Europe and the Far East and, at least with the benefit of hindsight, revealed the first glimmerings of Soviet postwar aims.

Jean Davies recalled that the work was very interesting, but it was only on reading the histories subsequently that she appreciated all that was going on, including the nuances behind Churchill's 69th birthday party with Stalin and Roosevelt in the British Embassy, which she attended.

Promoted to first officer in 1943, she was appointed MBE in 1944 in recognition of her services to the summit conferences.

After the war she transferred to the Administrative Branch and was appointed to a variety of staff posts, principally in the personnel field. In 1958 she was promoted to Superintendent WRNS and placed in charge of all Fleet Air Arm WRNS personnel, being advanced to OBE.

Promoted Commandant in 1961 and appointed Director WRNS, she oversaw the work, careers and training of some 3,500 regular officers and ratings, earning a reputation among all who worked for her as a charming, kindly and considerate person. Appointed a DBE and retiring in 1964, she was recruited by British Oxygen as a personnel director.

She left the company after her marriage, in 1967, to Roy Lancaster, a barrister. He died in 1981.

GEORGE LEVY

George Levy, MBE, antiques dealer and heritage campaigner, died on September 1 aged 69. He was born on May 21, 1927.



A DISTINGUISHED dealer in antique furniture and a familiar figure at auction houses all over the country, George Levy was also a dedicated custodian of Britain's national heritage. Throughout his life he gave generously of his expertise and time to museums and galleries, working free-of-charge to help them to secure treasures for the nation. He was a fierce campaigner against admission charges to collections. In 1992 he was appointed MBE for his services as chairman of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood.

George Joseph Levy was educated at Oundle but began his working career on the floor of a biscuit factory before going on to join the nascent British film industry. Perhaps he dreamt of becoming a second Hitchcock — he bore a passing resemblance to the great director — but he never rose higher than the level of clapper boy at Ealing Studios. His experiences on the periphery of the film world, however, instilled in him an abiding interest in the theatre and photography.

He joined the antique dealers Blairman's in 1950 and two years later married Wendy Blairman. Thus began a long association with the firm. In 1955 he was made a director and a decade later chairman. Levy built up a sympathetic relationship with the many museums and galleries with which he dealt. He would give freely of his time to act as adviser, particularly on the legal complexities of inheritance tax.

He was particularly helpful to the Iveagh Bequest at Kenwood, where he worked hand-in-hand with John Jacob, bidding across the Atlantic for pictures by Pannini (for Marble Hill) or Adam furniture (originally designed for Kenwood), works whose original provenance was unknown to the auctioneers. It was said that if the two men ever came into the saleroom together, another coup was in the offing. They usually worked discreetly apart.

Levy was president of the British Antique Dealers Association, 1974-76, and master-minded the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair in 1978-79. He was concerned with the Somerset House art treasures exhibition in 1979 and the Burlington House Fair from 1980 to 1982.

In 1978 he became chairman of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood, in succession to the architect, Peter Clapham. Any fears that having a chairman in the trade would lead to divided loyalties were quickly dispelled by the devotion Levy showed to Kenwood, both politically and in the saleroom. He became adept at tilting at the windmills of the Greater London Council, whether the subject was the imposition of museum charges, or the closure of rooms through the shortage of staff.

This continued when Kenwood was transferred to English Heritage with the setting up of the London Historic Houses Liaison Group in 1985. He not only raised money for the museum through this

group, but dealt diplomatically with English Heritage, forging a bridge between the professional ethos of the museum and the rather more commercial attitudes of its administrative trustee.

The position he had built up was seen to great effect earlier this year when he won the battle for the retention of a curatorial presence at Kenwood, and yet successfully bid at Christie's on behalf of English Heritage for a pair of early 18th-century Kentian tables which had been originally made for Chiswick House.

Ebullient in conversation, Levy was always someone whom it was fun to be with. His deals were straight, and, although shrewd, he was a man of integrity and openness, who did much for museums and the true interest of the "heritage" — a term for which he held an old-fashioned contempt.

He leaves a widow, Wendy, three daughters, and a son, one of whom, Martin, works in the family business.

UZU EGONU

Uzo Egonu, Nigerian painter and printmaker, died on August 14 aged 64. He was born on December 25, 1931.

THE Nigerian Uzo Egonu was a painter and printmaker who powerfully integrated the traditions of African art with those of modern Western culture. Combining exuberant colour and clearly defined form, he used allegory and metaphor to explore with a profound lyricism the tragedy of his nation at the time of the Biafran War. He was acclaimed as one of Africa's finest artists.

Uzo Egonu was born an Ibo, the son of a colonial civil servant in the royal city of Onitsha in Eastern Nigeria but, as was customary among the more sophisticated Westernised sector of Nigerian society, he was sent to Britain to be educated at the age of 13. At a private school in Little Snoring, Norfolk, his artistic talent was nurtured, and he went on to enrol at the Camberwell School of Art and Design, where he studied painting and typography under L.J. Daniels and Sir Gilbert Spencer.

After graduation in 1951 he travelled in Europe, studying the work of classical and modern masters as well as collections of traditional African art. He visited the studios of Jacob Epstein and settled in Paris for a time, selling his watercolour sketches to earn a living. He also spent some time in Denmark, Finland and Italy before he returned to London and set up his studio there in 1959.

The early 1960s were crucial years for Egonu's career as he



developed his own distinctive artistic style, which drew on influences from his native land, and from the various countries in which he had been travelling. For a while his work seemed in some ways to echo the aesthetic of Britain's "kitchen sink" school of painters, though he was never concerned with its social realism and inclined instead towards genre and nostalgic imagery.

Egonu embarked upon a detailed study of the terracotta traditions of the ancient Nok culture of West Africa. Although his treatise on this subject was unpublished, his discovery of what he termed a "formalism" in the work was to influence his own art and lead him away from the academicism of his student training.

Egonu had met a wealthy Gambian who was his patron in the early 1960s. In 1964 he had his first solo show. Then, two years later, he was offered a show at the Duchess of St Albans' Upper Grosvenor Gallery.

While the exhibition included much of his early work, the

most powerful paintings were probably those inspired by the political situation in Nigeria which, after a 1966 coup, was in a state of violent turmoil and on the brink of the horrors of the Biafran War. Although Egonu had not lived in Nigeria for several years, reports of the massacre of thousands of his fellow Ibos affected him deeply, and his second show at the Upper Grosvenor Gallery was a benefit for the victims of the Biafran War.

During the early 1970s Egonu began to experiment with printmaking, and it was

in this medium that he was to go on to do some of his most effective work. Sadly, however, the exposure to acid fumes in his studio was severely to damage his sight. He persisted with his work, nevertheless, and, even after suffering two heart attacks in the 1980s, continued to travel and exhibit both in Britain and abroad. Although a reserved and at times withdrawn man, he had a deep compassion and kindness and a love of life.

He is survived by his wife Hilrud, whom he married in 1971, and by nine children.

PROFESSOR JAMES COOPER

Professor James Cooper, Director of the Cranfield Centre for Logistics and Transportation, died from cancer on August 7 aged 48. He was born on September 6, 1947.



A DISTINGUISHED researcher and teacher, Professor James Cooper made a major contribution to the study of freight transport. He undertook pioneering research in the emerging field of logistics management which, at a time when concern about traffic growth and its detrimental effects is mounting, was invaluable. As Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transportation at Cranfield's School of Management, he headed what is widely regarded as one of the world's main centres for research in logistics.

James Charles Cooper's involvement in his field of study began when, after graduating in economics from Nottingham University, he took a job in the distribution division of Kodak in 1971. Five years later he returned to academic life, becoming a research fellow at the transport studies group, at what was then called the Polytechnic of Central London. Here he soon developed extensive research, teaching and consultancy interests in both freight transport and logistics.

In 1990 Cooper moved to Cranfield, where he led a

number of important studies for both companies and governments and participated in the DRIVE (Dedicated Road Infrastructure for Vehicle Safety in Europe) programmes of the European Community. His studies of road freight deregulation and the restructuring of companies' logistics operations within the European single market, commanded wide interest among academics, industrialists and public policy-makers.

He led the Cranfield team on a joint programme with Andersen Consulting which resulted in the influential study, *Reconfiguring European Logistics Systems*. Thanks to the extensive network of contacts he maintained with transport and logistics specialists around the

world, he was able to bring an international perspective to the study of freight transport and to disseminate the results of British research in this field to foreign audiences.

Cooper's academic research was always of practical relevance. He was the UK representative on the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) expert group on advanced logistics and communications.

He was also a specialist adviser to the European Committee of the House of Lords and to a range of professional organisations. He recognised the importance of linking a strong professional institute to the worlds of education and research and was a sought-after conference speaker and university lecturer.

Cooper also published extensively, through journals, research reports and books as well as in the press. Two of his papers, *Dedicated Contract Distribution: An Assessment of the UK Market Place* and *The Paradigm of Logistics in Europe*, received best paper awards from leading journals. He was the winner of the Henry Spurrer Award from the Chartered Institute of Transport in 1991. One of his last achievements was to found a new international journal dedicated to the study of transport and logistics.

He is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.

Four weddings, a priory and a hospital

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HUGH GRANT was probably too busy at the final nuptial in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* to notice the church in which it was filmed. A London University student has now shown that the architecture of St Bartholomew-the-Great in Smithfield, London, is considerably more complex than a casual glance would suggest.

The surviving church is only the eastern end of the great Augustinian monastic priory, closed in 1539. The associated hospital, founded in 1123, has survived and the remains of the church were converted to parochial use by 1559.

Most of the nave and cloister were demolished but enough remained for Maybel-Gornley to show how an

early dormitory probably incorporated the first chapter house, before a grander structure was erected in the 13th century. "This was achieved through a two-week building survey which paid particular attention to subtle but significant changes in building alignments," she says in *London Archaeologist*.

Stone by stone elevations of three of the eight surviving bays of the eastern range of the cloister, and a meticulous plan, showed numerous alterations over the centuries. Older arches had been truncated or partly blocked and walls refaced and brought forward.

The earliest phase consisted of a dormer or sleeping hall, the remains of which were largely demolished in 1870. It was

apparently entered by a doorway in the third bay from the north and Ms Gornley suggests that the first two bays served as the chapter house, where the priory's governing body met in the 12th century.

The dormer was one of several free-standing buildings grouped around the open space of the cloister garth but a covered walk around it, forming a traditional cloister, was not constructed until the 13th century, decades later than hitherto accepted, Ms Gornley claims. At the same time, a separate chapter house was built over the previous site, extending further east.

The line of the chapter house wall differed from that of its 15th century successor and little of it remains, but a

stone base which had formerly supported a cluster of three columns survives. This allowed Ms Gornley to estimate the dimensions for the vanished eastern cloister walk, with eight bays each measuring some 4.2 metres (13ft 7in) wide. A new frontage was built on to the chapter house a century or so later, cutting into the old dormitory block doorway.

The irregularity of St Bartholomew's cloister suggests that it was a formalisation of disparate earlier freestanding buildings: this may be a useful pointer to the earlier history of other irregularly planned cloisters, such as that at Westminster Abbey.

Source: *London Archaeologist* Vol 8, No 1, 18-24.

THE GROWTH OF BETTING. POOR WOMEN AND HORSE RACING.

Information as to the increase of betting and gambling and the cause of it is contained in a report drawn up by the Social and Industrial Commission of the National Assembly of the Church of England (Church House, Westminster, Ed.). It gives the substance of replies to a questionnaire sent out to 100 individuals and organisations in England and Wales.

In the inquiry as to causes comparatively few replies suggested the desire to increase income or the effect of poor housing conditions, but 37 replies cited the increased facilities for betting and gambling, and 27 replies suggested the craving for excitement as the main cause. Other causes alleged were sweepstakes on racing and football in offices, factories, workshops, and public houses; impatience with a "humdrum" existence; the amount of money at the disposal of the masses and the desire to get

ON THIS DAY

September 9, 1927

More women than before were indulging in gambling, not always for financial gain but from a craving for excitement. "In many poor streets every woman buys the midday racing edition."

something for nothing; the ample spare time of men; the increase of schemes for collecting money for charitable objects by competitions and ballots; lack of control on the part of parents; increased income during the war and the want of a higher aim in life. A notable increase in betting and gambling since the war was mentioned in 65 replies, and as to the extent to which they are indulged in by women, 28 replied to a very great extent, a similar number replied "to a great extent," and 17 "to a small extent."

It was added by one correspondent that in many streets "75 per cent of the women bet" and by another that "in many poor streets every woman buys the midday racing edition."

Horse racing was given as the principal form of gambling in 77 of the replies. Football came second, and then followed cards, dice, crown and anchor, pitch and toss, sweepstakes, greyhound coursing, pigeon flying, billiards, boat races, and marbles. As to the methods used by those carrying on the betting business, the following is given as the gist of the replies: "Street betting is carried on by men and women standing in places known to their clients to take bets. Bookmakers usually employ agents for this purpose. Men are posted at vantage points in relays to watch for the police. Touts wait at exits of large factories to catch employees. Tradesmen, small shopkeepers, and hawkers receive bets. Racing and football sweeps are organised in many large places of employment. Books of football coupons are distributed by agents."

